

HEART TO HEART TALKS

**With
Jehovah's
Witnesses**

BY HOMER DUNCAN



HEART TO HEART TALKS WITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

DUNCAN

**The Doctrines of the
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Compared with the
HOLY SCRIPTURES**

The Second Edition - New and Enlarged

*Heart to heart talks with those who wish to compare the teachings of the
Watchtower Bible and Tract Society with the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures.*

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REASON

Chapter One

“Come, now, YOU people, and let us set matters straight between us,” says Jehovah, “Though the sins of YOU people should prove to be scarlet, they will be made white just like snow; though they should be red like crimson cloth, they will become even as wool. If YOU people show willingness and do listen, the good of the land YOU will eat. But if YOU people refuse and are actually rebellious, with a sword YOU will be eaten up; for the very mouth of Jehovah hath spoken (it)” (Isaiah 1:18-20) NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

The Lord Jesus Christ (you recognize him as being a mighty god, and as being the Son of God) said, “Go in through the narrow gate; because broad and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are the ones going through it; whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are the ones finding it” (Matthew 7:13,14 - NWT).

You and I agree that these two verses of Scripture are true. We agree that there are two gates, two roads, two groups and that there are two destinations. Right at the moment we are not agreed as to who are the ones on these two roads. There are a dozen major religions in the world and the adherents of each of these religions are confident that they are on the right road. Their convictions are so strong in this matter that many of these people in the different religions are willing to die for what they believe. In some cases their convictions are so strong that they believe that it is a meritorious act to kill any person in their group who may be converted to another religion.

Some well-meaning people attempt to solve the problem of many religions by saying, "It does not matter what you believe as long as you are sincere in what you believe." The folly of such reasoning is evident to every thinking person. I may be perfectly sincere when I by mistake take poison instead of medicine, but my sincerity will in no way alleviate the disastrous results of my taking poison. When I take a trip, I may sincerely believe that I am on the right road, or that I am on the right train, but my sincerity will never take me to the right destination if I am on the wrong one.

The Christian religion has two main groups: Catholics and Protestants, and both Catholics and Protestants are divided into several denominations (denomination is the act of naming, it is a category, a sect) there are those who use the name interdenominational or non-denominational. There are other groups such as the Mormons or Latter Day Saints. There are Seventh-Day Adventists, Christian Scientists, Unitarians, Universalists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and literally dozens of other groups. All of these people are perfectly sincere in what they believe and they believe that they are in the right group or they would not be in it, but it should be obvious that they cannot all be right because many of them believe things that are diametrically opposite. Some of these good people must be sincerely wrong!

The New World Translation of the Bible says this, "There exists a way that is upright before a man, but the ways of death are the end of it afterward" (Proverbs 14:12 and also 16:25). The King James Version translates these verses, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." The Douay (Catholic) Version reads, "There is a way which seems just to a man: but the ends thereof lead to death." The Revised Standard Version reads, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."

Though there is a slight difference in each of these four versions, all of them are essentially saying the same thing: "The road that we are on, may seem to us to be right, but even though it seems to us to be right, it may be wrong, and, if it is wrong, it leads to death."

Since Jesus said that there are two destinations before us - destruction and life (Matthew 7:13, 14) each of us had better be sure that we are on the right road. The Apostle Paul said this, "Keep testing whether you are in the faith, keep proving what yourselves are. Or do YOU not recognize that Jesus Christ is in union with YOU? Unless you are disapproved" (2 Corinthians 13:5 - NWT). Then read this verse in the King James Version.

Amid all of the clamor and confusion how can any one know what is the right way? The Roman Catholic Church claims to have apostolic succession all the way back to Jesus Christ. They claim to have the same doctrine and form of worship all over the world. They believe that the Pope is the Vicar of Jesus Christ. They think that they are right and that all others are wrong. The reformers believe just as strongly that God raised up holy men of God to lead them out of the darkness of Romanism. Many Baptists do not consider themselves to be Protestants and think that they can be traced directly to Christ. The Mormons think that they are right because Joseph Smith, their founder, had a direct revelation from God. The Jehovah's Witnesses are convinced that they are right and that all others are wrong.

Alas! Is it possible ~~for~~ any person to know what is the right way? Thank God there is an answer. Praise Jehovah! He will not leave His people in darkness, but will guide them into truth. The Bible says, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). The Bible is the standard by which we can determine what is right and what is wrong.

Two people may be having an argument as to whether or not a wall is crooked or straight. They can argue until doomsday and neither one would be able to prove that he is right and that the other person is wrong. But there is a way to determine whether or not a wall is crooked or straight. Test it with a level or plumb line. The Bible is God's measuring rod by which we can test all of the doctrines of men and the systems of men to see whether or not they are right or wrong.

DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TOWARD THE BIBLE

(1) Many people, even many professing Christians, do not believe that the Bible is the Word of God. (2) Some believe that the Bible contains the Word of God, that part of it is inspired and that part of it is not inspired. This difference of opinion means that the reader must use his own judgment in determining what part is inspired and what is not inspired. It also means that the Bible is not an authoritative book, because we judge it instead of letting it judge us. (3) There are those who believe that the Bible can be understood like any other book simply by the aid of the human intellect. (4) Many groups believe that the Bible cannot be understood apart from their literature. The doctrines of every cult are based on the Bible AND some book or books of false teachers. The Mormons have the Bible AND the Book of Mormon, AND latter day revelations. The Christian Scientists (whose doctrines are like grape nuts; they are neither Christian nor are they science) base their teachings on the Bible, AND on SCIENCE AND HEALTH, WITH A KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES, by Mary Patterson Eddy Baker Glover Fry: The Seventh-Day Adventists base their doctrines on the Bible and on the writings of Mrs. Ellen White.

From their own writings, I wish to show you the that the Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the Bible cannot be understood apart from their literature. I quote from page 273 of the Watchtower of May 1957.

"Jehovah God has provided his holy written Word for all mankind and it contains all the information that is needed for men in taking a course leading to life. But God has not arranged for the Word to speak independently OR TO SHINE FORTH LIFE-GIVING TRUTHS BY ITSELF. His word says: 'Light is sown for the righteous; (Ps. 97:11). It is THROUGH HIS ORGANIZATION THAT GOD PROVIDES THIS LIGHT that the prophet says is the teaching or law of the mother. If we walk in the light of truth, we must recognize not only Jehovah God as our Father but his organization as our mother."

The writer of LET GOD BE TRUE, says, "Hence, as the reader approaches the study of the Bible with this book (meaning LET GOD BE TRUE) in hand, he is neither being invited nor being led to study God's Word according

to the perplexing, mysterious errors of Christendom. He is asked to study according to what God himself has to say in his own word."

Thus we see that the Jehovah's Witnesses believe and boldly proclaim that the Watchtower Society is the divinely appointed channel for the dissemination of what they believe to be the truth, and, since they sincerely believe this, they refuse to listen to truth from any other source, and tragically they remain in darkness.

(5) There are those who believe that the Bible is a supernatural book, that was written in a supernatural way, and that if it is to be understood the reader must have supernatural help.

This last position is the one that is taught in the Bible. Jesus said, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13).

The Bible tells us that the natural man (unregenerate man) does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, and that they are foolishness to him. The things of God must be spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). In 1 Corinthians 2:9 we read, "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

At first glance we think that this verse is talking about the future glories of heaven, but verse ten shows us that it is talking about things that God wants for us now, at this present time. "But God hath revealed them to us by his Spirit" (v. 10). The Bible reveals many reasons why God gives His Holy Spirit to men, and one of these reasons is stated for us in verse 12, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

SOME APPLICATIONS

One thing should be perfectly clear to every honest-minded, straight-thinking person. The understanding that people have of the Bible depends on their attitude toward the Bible. (1) The person who does not believe that the Bible is the word of God will not understand the Bible in the same way as does the person who studies the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit. (2) The person who believes that the Bible merely contains the Word of God will not come up with the same answers as does the person who believes that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). (3) The person who comes to the Bible depending on nothing but his own intellect will get different answers than does the person taught by the Spirit of God. I remember so well that Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer said, "An unlearned and ignorant washwoman who is taught by the Spirit of God will have a clearer understanding of the Bible than will a university professor who is not taught by the Spirit of God."

(4) It should be obvious that people who study the Bible with guide lines set down by any religious system will come up with a difference set of answers than does the person who studies the Bible under the illumination of the Holy Spirit. Many examples could be given of this. Most Protestants think that the Roman Catholic Church is a false religious system, but most of them do not know what is the basic error of Romanism. The basic error is this: The Roman Catholic Church puts the authority of the Church above the authority of the Bible. Therefore, with them, the issue is not what the Bible says, but in the final analysis it is what the Church says. This is also the basic error of the Jehovah's Witnesses. They insist that the Bible must be studied with the help of their literature. They have a set of doctrines that they want to prove, and they search throughout the Scriptures to find proof text to substantiate what they want the Bible to teach, and they do a good job of this, but they come up with the wrong answers.

If you doubt what I say is true, I invite you to turn for a time from the books written by the Jehovah's Witnesses, and begin to study the Bible for yourself, apart from their writings, asking the Spirit of God to guide you into all truth. You will begin to come up with some different answers than you have found in the Watchtower publications. You will begin to find some pieces that do not fit into place in the Watchtower puzzle.

I have been witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses for 36 years, and I make bold to affirm that not one single person ever became a Jehovah's Witness by studying the Bible depending on the Spirit of God to guide them into the truth. They became Jehovah's Witnesses by studying the slanted literature put out by the Watchtower Society.

Dear Friend, please do not think that I am trying to be hard or harsh simply because I tell the truth. Though you may not believe that the eternal destiny of your soul is at stake, and though I wish to write as kindly as I can, there is no need to gloss over the truth. I said that that I might say this.

In the 36 years that I have been dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses I have not met a single one of them that knew and understood the message of the Bible. I have often been amazed at the way even an eleven-year old Jehovah's Witness boy can rattle off their doctrine. Many times I have been fascinated as I have listened to them explain away some verse of Scripture that does not fit into their doctrine. They are masters at doing this, but many times I have asked them the most elementary questions about the Bible as a whole or about the different books in the Bible, or the doctrines of the Bible, and they were in complete darkness. For example, I have asked them, "What is the central message of the book of Romans?" And they answer something like this, "I refuse to be put on the spot." This is no doubt a patent answer that they are taught in their training. It is utterly impossible for any person to know and understand the message of the Bible and to be a Jehovah's Witness. I know that is a strong statement, but I stand ready to back it up.

A RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY

There are two ways to study the Bible: the right way and the wrong way. All of the cults use the wrong method. They have their own doctrines and preconceived notion, and they come to the Bible to find proof-text to substantiate what they want to believe. The correct way to study the Bible is to come to it with an honest heart and with an open mind depending on the Holy Spirit to take the things of Christ and to show them unto us (John 16:15). It will be well to observe here that the Jehovah's Witnesses cannot study the Bible with the Holy Spirit as their teacher because they do not believe in His personality or Deity. They teach that the Holy Spirit is the invisible power of God. A power cannot teach; only a person can teach. Therefore, it is impossible for these so-called students of the Bible to understand the Bible in the same way as do born-again Christians who are taught by the Spirit of God.

SOME SUGGESTED METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY

Chapter Two

The Jehovah's Witnesses have been deceived into believing that they are the ones who study the Bible. I recognize that the average professing Christian is not an earnest student of the Scriptures. However, there are tens of thousands of dedicated Christians in many of our modern denominations, and tens of thousands of others who are not a part of any denominational system who are earnest students of the Scriptures. In the United States we have hundreds of Bible Institutes, such as the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, with thousands of students, and dozens of Bible Colleges, such as Columbia Bible College, where the Bible is believed, taught, and studied. The schools are not a part of any denominational system, nor are they a part of what you and I agree on as being called "Christendom." In addition to these schools there are a number of sound seminaries where young men with college degrees spend at least four years making a thorough study of the Scriptures. In addition to this there are thousands of Bible Churches, Baptist Churches, Evangelical Methodist Churches, Bible Presbyterian Churches, and many others, all of whom believe that the Bible is the Word of God, and as such believers they diligently search the Scriptures, and as they have searched the Scriptures they have come to believe in the same basic truths that have been believed by Christians from the time of Christ.

It is utterly impossible for any one who studies the Bible in a piece-meal fashion to know its message. When tourists go to Russia, they are given guided tours. There are some things that the Communist do not want the

tourist to see. When you make a guided tour of the Bible, be sure that you have the right Guide! Who could be a better teacher and guide than the Holy Spirit who wrote the Bible through holy men of God?

You will never know the message of the Bible if you use just one or two methods of studying it. Martin Luther said that he studied his Bible like he gathered apples. First, he shook the whole tree and got all that he could that way. Then he shook the large limbs and got all that he could. Then he shook the individual branches and finally he looked on every twig and under every leaf. We must first study the Bible as a whole, then we are to study it book by book, then chapter by chapter, then verse by verse and finally word by word.

The first method of Bible study is synthesis or survey. This method was popularized by Dr. James M. Gray, a former president of Moody Bible Institute. This is the method of the telescope, of seeing the Bible as a whole. Dr. Gray gives the following rules: (1) Begin where God began with the Book of Genesis. (2) Read the book (do not study it in the usual sense). (3) Read the book continuously. (That is, at a single sitting without noticing chapters or verses). (4) Read it repeatedly. (5) Read it independently, or without commentaries. (6) Read it prayerfully.

The second principal method of Bible study is analysis. This is the method of the microscope. The details of the Bible are studied. In synthesis the Bible is examined as a whole; in analysis it is taken apart.

A third method of Bible study is topical. Instead of studying the Bible chapter by chapter, it is studied by subjects or doctrines, such as justification, sanctification, angels, assurance, security, judgment, resurrection or sin.

A fourth and very interesting method of Bible study is typical. This method of study takes us beneath the surface into rich mines of hidden truth. For example, when studying about Joseph, we see Jesus. When studying the experiences of the children of Israel as they came from Egypt into Canaan, we see a beautiful picture of the Christian life. When studying about the Tabernacle and the priesthood, we find the details are most uninteresting

until we look beneath the surface and find that every part of the Tabernacle speaks to us of Christ.

Chapter summary is a fifth method of Bible study. Many Bible schools have a definite plan that is used in studying each chapter of the Bible, but for the beginning Bible student we suggest that each chapter of any particular book in the Bible be summarized in one simple heading. For example: the third chapter of John is the "New Birth." The thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians is "Love," and the fifteenth chapter of that same book is "Resurrection." Or Ezekiel thirty-seven is "Dry Bones." This type of study will require much study on our part, but will bring abundant blessing. When we are thus taught by the Holy Spirit, the Bible begins to live.

The Jehovah's Witnesses do not use any of the above methods in studying the Bible. Please do not be angry with me when I tell you that they use the method that the Apostle Peter spoke of when he said, "they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16). If you have the courage and the moral integrity to read and to study the rest of this booklet, you will discover that what I am telling you is true.

Did you ever stop to think how the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society got started? It began with Charles Taze Russell who was born on February 16, 1852. Russell became an agnostic in 1872 and broke away from historic Christianity. He began to read the writings of Mrs. Ellen White, the founder of the Seventh-Day Adventist cult. He was pleased and fascinated with the teachings of this cult that Hell is the grave. He soon began to teach a Bible class, but instead of searching the Scriptures to see what the Bible really taught on any given subject, he began to build his own system of doctrine, and searched the Scriptures to find verses that seemed to substantiate his own position. It did not bother him in the least, nor does it bother present day Jehovah's Witness writers that these verses are often made to mean exactly the opposite of what the Bible teaches. The "context" means the subject matter that goes both before and after a particular verse of Scripture. In other words any verse of Scripture, if to be properly understood,

must be studied in the light of the context. However, all of the cults lift verses out of their context and use them to bolster their false position.

Truth does not change. What is true today will be true tomorrow, and will be true a thousand years from now, but the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses have changed many times through the years. Several times they have set dates for the Second Coming of Christ, and have had to change these dates several times. Further details about this will be discussed in our chapter on the Second Coming of Christ.

It is bad enough to twist the Scriptures to prove your own doctrine, but it is worse when the meaning of the original language is changed in order to prove your false doctrinal position.

The Watchtower Bible Society has come out with their own slanted translation of the Bible called THE NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. On the whole this is a good translation, but the publishers do not hesitate to change the text when it is necessary to do so to substantiate their doctrine. Who are the Watchtower Society scholars who do their translating? I have written to their headquarters in Brooklyn endeavoring to get the names of these "scholars" so that I could check on their scholarship, but the Watchtower Society refuses to divulge the names of these men. I can give you the names of dozens, yes, hundreds of scholars who are recognized as scholars by the academic world who hold to the historic doctrines of the Christian church, and who recognize that the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses are unscriptural.

Dear Friend, I remind you once again of the eternal issues that are involved in determining the truth concerning the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures. It is utterly impossible for anyone to know the truth, when they blindly follow a prescribed course of study. If you wanted to learn the truth on any given subject, say for example the stars, would you be willing to take the word of any one man who told you that he was the only one who was right and that all other astronomers were wrong? Would it not be wise to compare the teachings of several astronomers, and then to base your beliefs on what they had discovered? If you

would use this method in studying any secular subject, why will you blindly follow one particular society that has sold you on the idea that they are the depository of the truth of God. By the way, where was the truth before Charles Taze Russell came along in 1852? Did God Almighty leave his people in darkness for nearly two millennia?

SO GREAT SALVATION

Chapter Three

It would take a very large volume if we were to examine all of the doctrines taught by the Watchtower Society, and since this cannot be done, I have selected the following nine vital doctrines for our consideration:

- I. Salvation
- II. The Deity of Christ
- III. The Spirit of Jehovah
- IV. The Names of God
- V. The Trinity
- VI. The Resurrection of Christ
- VII. The Soul of Man
- VIII. Hell
- IX. The Second Coming of Christ

If there is one thing that is more important than other things in studying the Scripture, it is to understand clearly what a person must do in order to be saved. Through the years, as I have dealt with Jehovah's Witnesses, I have asked them many times what a person must do in order to be saved, and I have never received a clear-cut answer from them.

I wrote to the Watchtower Society headquarters in Brooklyn, N. Y. and asked them to give an answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" They sent me December 1, 1967, issue of THE WATCHTOWER, in which was the article, "What is Needed for Salvation?" I quote from that article, "In effect, you are posing the same question put to the Apostle Paul and his companion nineteen hundred years ago: 'What must I do to get saved?'

Acts 16:30.

"That question needs a clear and positive answer, and that is just what the Bible furnishes. Indeed, God's Word plainly sets forth the steps that must be taken by each one who desires salvation. There is need first to cast aside any attitude of complacency or idea that, if you sit tight, all will be well. There is no easy road to salvation. It is gained only by strenuous endeavor, for the Bible's exhortation is "Keep working out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). And Jesus Christ counseled those who would be saved: Exert yourselves vigorously. Luke 13:23, 24.

"Taking in knowledge is the first essential, and on this point Jesus Christ declared: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ"(John 17:3). So the first step on the way to salvation is study of the Bible, because it is God's book and in it he tells us what he, the Provider of salvation, requires of us if we are to benefit from his provision."

It would be folly to belittle the importance of the study of the Word of God, but studying the Bible will no more save any one than will the reading of a menu to satisfy your appetite.

We quote again from the WATCHTOWER, "Association with the congregation of Christians who recognize that God is pleased, not with rites and meaningless ceremonies, but with worship that is offered 'with spirit and truth,' is vital to your salvation (John 4:23; I Sam. 15:22)."

This is a case of putting the cart before the horse. Every Bible-believing Christian knows the importance of associating with other Christians. Yes, we should go to church, but we do not go to church in order to be saved, but because we are saved. Think through, there is a world of difference.

We quote again from THE WATCHTOWER, "How vital, then, for each one who wants eternal life to clean up his life and 'quit being fashioned after this system of things (controlled by Satan, its god), but be transformed by making (one's) mind over!' (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:4). The 'new personality' is a must for salvation."

The cart is before the horse again. We do not get a "new personality" in order to be saved, but we have a new personality because we are saved. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We do not get into Christ by striving to be a new creature, but we become a new creature because we are in Christ. Let the Spirit of God speak to your heart and show you the difference.

Certainly every one who wants eternal life should live a clean life, but we do not live a clean life in order to get eternal life, but we live a clean life because we have eternal life - the very life of the risen Christ. The only way that any of us can live the Christian life is to let Christ live His life through us. The Christian does not "want" eternal life. He HAS eternal life. Even NWT states this, "Most truly I say unto YOU, He that hears my word and believes him that sent me has everlasting life, and he does not come into judgment but has passed over from death to life" (John 5:24). If you will prayerfully ponder and believe that one verse of Scripture, you will no longer be a Jehovah's Witness. In this verse of Scripture, Jesus tells us that eternal life is a present possession and not a future attainment. How do we get life? By having Christ. "He that has the Son has this life; he that does not have the Son of God does not have this life" (I John 5:12-NWT). How do we get Christ? By receiving Him (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20).

Again we quote from THE WATCHTOWER, "Participation in preaching and teaching God's Word is vitally related to your salvation."

Certainly every Christian should be a witness for Christ. Jesus said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8). Notice we are to witness unto Christ, but we do not witness in order to be saved, but because we are saved! Many professing Christians do not witness because they are not saved. Others do not witness because they are out of fellowship with God. Others do not witness because they have never been filled with the Holy Spirit. This requirement for participation in preaching and teaching as a necessary condition of salvation shows why Jehovah's Witnesses are

such zealous witnesses. They are witnessing because they believe that it is necessary for them to do so if they are to be saved. This is not pleasing in the sight of God. Any form of Christian service is not to be a legalist requirement for obtaining favor and merit in the sight of God, but it should be an expression of our love for Christ. Tens of thousands, yea hundreds of thousands of Christians, have in the past and are now in the present literally burning out for God on the far-flung battle fields of the world. They are doing this, not in order to be saved, but because of the constraining love of Christ (II Corinthians 5:14). Once again, dear friend, I call on you to think of the difference in these two positions. Think of the difference it will make in your attitude. Think of the difference it will make in your eternal destiny!

Again I quote from THE WATCHTOWER, "Your faith should lead you to take another important step necessary to your salvation. Yes, it is the step of dedication. Of course, for the dedicated one there is now no turning back. "Whenever you vow a vow to God, do not hesitate to pay it," is the inspired counsel, "for there is no delight in the stupid ones. What you vow, pay" (Eccl. 5:4).

Every Christian should be dedicated to God. In Romans 12:1,2 we read these words, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

To whom are these words addressed? To unbelievers, as a condition of salvation? Hardly. They are addressed to "brethren." They are not written to people as a condition of salvation, but after the Apostle Paul has taken the first eleven chapters of Romans describing the greatness of God's marvelous salvation, he says, "I beseech you THEREFORE." In view of all that God has done for them, Paul tells them that it is only reasonable for them to give themselves completely to God. The song writer puts it in this way, "Love so amazing, so divine demands my soul, my life, my all."

"The reward of salvation in all of its fullness surpasses our fondest imagination" (WATCHTOWER). Salvation is the free gift of God, and is not given to us as a reward. Study carefully Romans 5:11-21 and dozens of other passages showing that salvation is a free gift. It is free to us because it was purchased with the blood of Christ. Salvation is one thing; rewards are another thing. We are rewarded on the basis of our works. We are saved or lost depending on whether or not we have received or rejected Christ (I John 5:12).

"If faithful, you will receive salvation, yes, everlasting life as God's gift through Christ!" (WATCHTOWER). Certainly, Christians should be faithful, but salvation does not depend on our faithfulness, but on His righteousness. May I ask you a question? And it will haunt you! How faithful do you have to be in order to be saved? Are you sure that you have been faithful enough? Suppose you slip at just one tiny point? Suppose you fail just one time? How much better to rest in the Lord, and to depend on what He has done rather than striving to be saved by what we can do.

The article in the WATCHTOWER magazine closes with these words, "He that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved." - Matthew 10:22. Jesus spoke these same words in the Olivet Discourse, "But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13). Many dear people mistakenly think that these verses teach that we must, "Hold out faithful to the end, if we are to be saved."

What about the context of these verses? What was Jesus talking about when He spoke these words? If you will carefully study the context of these verses you will find that the "end" to which Christ was referring was the end of the Great Tribulation period. Jesus spoke these words to encourage His suffering witnesses during the Great Tribulation. The mind of the natural man cannot comprehend the grace of God, and revolts against the wonderful truth that we are kept, not by our own steadfastness, but by the power of God (I Peter 1:5). For a further discussion on this subject order our booklet "Anchor of Hope."

In the name of Jehovah-God, I want to assure you that the teaching in this article in the WATCHTOWER is not what the Bible teaches about salvation. If you will take the time to study a number of Scriptural references with me, this will soon become evident to you.

The New World Translation of Matthew 1:21 reads, "She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." How profound! And yet how simple. "He will save his people from their sins." Jesus is the Savior. Salvation is in Him. We are not saved by a religion, by a church, by a creed, or by a doctrine. We are not saved by the way we live, but we are saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the message of the Bible.

The Apostle Paul proclaimed, "For I am not ashamed of the good news; it is in fact God's power for salvation to every one having faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16-NWT). The word "gospel" means good news. The Gospel is stated for us in I Corinthians 15:1-4: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."

The writer of the book of Hebrews exclaims, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3). What could be more important than knowing, understanding, and receiving the wonderful salvation that God offers to all men? I have a number of friends among the Jehovah's Witnesses, and would like to share with you a letter that I wrote to two of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Holmes
5643 - Evans Street
Midland, Texas 79701
Dear Coleman and Sarah:

State it any way that you wish, but there are just two

bases, or two theories, or two systems of salvation in the world. (1) All pagan religions, all pseudo-Christian religions, and all cults teach that salvation is by works. (2) The Bible teaches that man is saved by grace. (1) Man made religion and human reasoning say, "This do and thou shalt be saved." (2) The Bible says "Done," and points to the finished work of Christ on the Cross. Grace is a principle that is contrary to the thinking of the natural man.

By pagan religions I mean Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Judaism, Islam or Amimism (spirit worship).

By pseudo-Christian religions I mean Roman Catholicism, Greek Orthodoxy, Modernism, and many of the present day Protestant denominations.

By the cults I mean such groups as the Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventist, Mormons, Christian Scientists, etc.

As I have read through a number of books published by the Watchtower Society, I have failed to find a clear-cut presentation of God's plan of salvation. If you know where such is stated, I will be glad for you to call it to my attention. The Jehovah's Witnesses that I have talked to readily defend their position that salvation is by works. When I have asked them what a person must do to be saved, I get an answer something like this, "You must love God, you must study and know the Bible, and you must live according to the teachings of the Bible."

On such a basis as this no one can KNOW that he is saved, because no one would ever know whether or not he had done enough good works to save him. The Bible teaches that salvation is a present possession. It teaches that all who truly come to Christ now have everlasting life. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). God wants us to be saved and to know that we are saved. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that we have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13).

Born-again, Bible-believing Christians are the only people in this world who believe in salvation by grace and in

justification by faith. These Christians can be found in many Protestant denominations, in Catholic churches, and in independent groups that use many different names.

I invite you to join me in looking at a few of the many references in the Bible that teach salvation by grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). "Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (II Tim. 1:9). "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" (Acts 15:11). "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

Here are a few of the verses that teach justification by faith. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28). "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works" (Romans 4:5,6). "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16-18). "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts 13:39). "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

Look at these verses where the Bible teaches that salvation is the free gift of God. "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water" (John 4:10). "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift: for if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore, as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteousness. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:15-21). "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15). On the one hand the Bible teaches the importance of good works, and encourages Christians to be fruitful in good works, but on the other hand the Bible clearly teaches that we are not saved by works. If any person could possibly be saved by good works Jesus Christ would not have had to die on the Cross. Here are some of the verses that teach the importance of good works. "Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:9). "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:17). "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness,

gravity, sincerity" (Titus 2:7). "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1). "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men" (Titus 3:8). "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful" (Titus 3:14).

Here are some verses that clearly teach that we are not saved or justified by works. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). "Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2 Tim. 1:9). "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16).

Here are some verses that show the proper relationship between faith and works. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). We are not saved by good works but we are saved "unto" good works. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12,13). A man cannot work out a garden unless he has a garden to work in. Christians cannot work out their salvation until God first works it in. "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24). Yes, we see and believe that a man is justified by his works, by the way he lives and by the things that he does, but

in God's sight he is justified entirely by faith. "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

The two systems of grace and works are mutually exclusive. It cannot be a part of one and part of the other. This is clearly taught in (Romans 11:5,6) "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then it is no more works: other wise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: other wise work is no more work." Did you ever read these verses in any of the literature published by the Watchtower Society?

Well meaning people who believe in salvation by works fail to understand two things: (1) the awfulness of sin, and (2) the meaning of the Cross. Though hundreds of large volumes have been written on these two subjects by devout theologians, I invite you to share with me a few concise thoughts on these two subjects.

People who believe in salvation by works fail to understand that all of the good works in the world could never cancel nor pay for one single sin. "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). Human reasoning might lead us to believe that our good works will cancel out our bad works, but the Bible does not teach this. The Bible teaches that until we are born again by the Spirit of God we are dead in trespasses and sins. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:1,2). The only kind of works that a dead man can produce are dead works, and dead works cannot save. "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14).

What an awful thing to believe in salvation by works! When we believe in salvation by works we belittle the Cross of Christ. The Bible teaches that all men are sinners. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"

(Romans 3:23). The Bible teaches that we were alienated from God by our sins. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). When Jesus Christ - the God-man died on the Cross, He died for our sins. "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). He bore our sins. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24). He suffered for our sins. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18). He was made sin for us. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

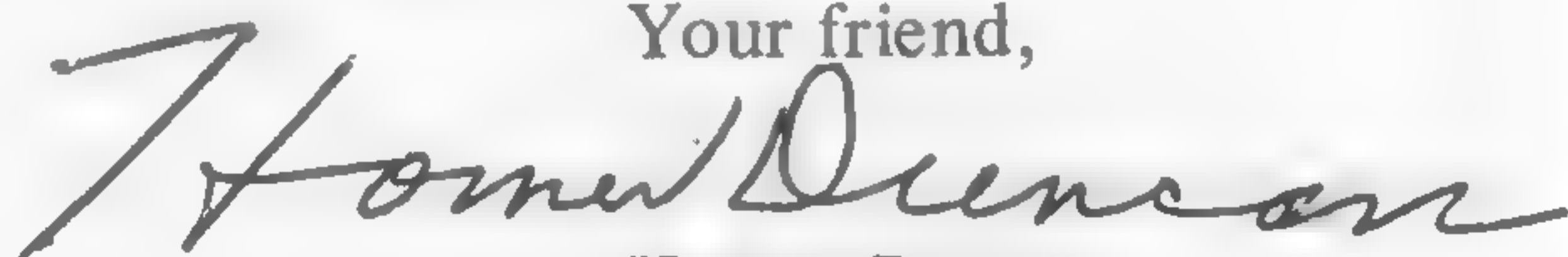
On the basis of what Jesus Christ did on the Cross God saves and justifies all men on exactly the same basis - that of grace through faith. Salvation is the free gift of God, but if men are to be saved, they must by faith invite the living Christ to come into their hearts. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). This is the glorious Gospel of the Grace of God, and the Apostle Paul says if any man preaches another Gospel he is accursed. "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel. Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-8).

Satan, who is a liar and a deceiver, hates the Gospel of Grace with a passion. He is a master counterfeiter. The value of a counterfeit lies in the fact that it takes an expert to distinguish between the genuine article and

the counterfeit article. Most of us would not be able to recognize a counterfeit ten-dollar bill if we had it. Hundreds of devout Bible students, men and women who have devoted their lives to the study of the Holy Scriptures, and men and women, who unlike the Jehovah's Witnesses studied the Bible independently of any system of prescribed helps, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses afford, believe that the Jehovah's Witnesses are masters of deception. I have been convinced of this for more than 36 years. They have established a false basic premise, and in their effort to maintain that premise they are willing to stoop to subterfuge. The Bible tells us that in the closing days of this dispensation "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

The deception of these false teachers is apparent in hundreds of ways to Bible students who are taught and led by the Spirit of God. Yes, Jehovah is His Name, but He is not represented by those who call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses. I pray that you will not commit the unpardonable sin by blaspheming the Holy Spirit. I trust and pray that you will find everlasting life in Him (Jesus) who is Lord of all (Acts 10:36). I trust that you will begin to study your Bible independently of the supposed helps of these false teachers.

Your friend,



Homer Duncan

FALSE INTERPRETATIONS

Chapter Four

The next chapter in this book is on the Deity of Christ. In that chapter we will give indisputable evidence that Jesus Christ is very God of very God. In chapter seven we give ten indisputable instances where the name Jehovah is applied to Jesus. In this chapter, we shall examine eight Scripture references that are used by the Jehovah's Witnesses to prove that Jesus is a lesser deity.

These Scriptures fall into two categories. First, we will study three references where the Jehovah's Witnesses have found it necessary to tamper with the sacred text in order to make it fit their doctrine. The three references that we will study under this heading are John 1:1, Philippians 2:5-8, and Colossians 1:15-19. In the second category we will examine five verses of Scripture that are lifted out of context, and that are made to appear to mean something that the Holy Spirit never intended that they should mean.

I invite you to study with me in a prayerful manner John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." A bit of background information will help us to understand the true meaning of these words. Did you ever wonder why we have four Gospels when each of them covers so much of the same material? Why was not the subject matter of these four books condensed into one book? The answer is obvious. Each of the four writers of the four Gospels presents Jesus Christ from a different viewpoint.

If four men who were standing on four different sides of a house, were to describe the house, their descriptions

would have much in common because they would all be describing the same house. But, the description given would differ in some respects because they would be looking at the same house from different viewpoints. Each of the Gospel writers presents Christ from a different viewpoint. Matthew presents Christ to us as the King of the Jews. Mark presents Him as the servant obedient unto death. Luke presents Christ as the perfect man, and John presents Christ as the Son of God. John states this as his purpose in John 20:31, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." The Deity of Christ is presented in the Gospel of John as in no other book in the Bible. That is why John opens the book in the way that he does with the strong statement about the Deity of Christ.

The Jehovah's Witnesses have formulated the false doctrine that Jesus is not God, but that He is a "lesser deity," and they, therefore, cannot let this verse say what it really says. They, therefore, go to great pains to explain away this verse of Scripture, and here is how they do it. I quote from LET GOD BE TRUE, on pages 33 and 34.

"In John, chapter 1, he is spoken of as being the Word of God, that is to say, the mouthpiece or representative speaker for God. In the Greek Bible text the Word is Logos. Hence he may be called 'the Word of Logos.' Being a mighty one and holding this high official capacity as Logos and being before all other creatures, he was a God, but not the Almighty God, who is Jehovah. This distinction is shown in the Emphatic Diaglott translation of John 1:1-3 as follows: 'In the beginning was the LOGOS, and the LOGOS was with GOD, and the LOGOS was God. This was in the beginning with GOD. Through it every thing was done; and without it not even one thing was done, which has been done.' Here in our quotation the typographical difference between GOD and God is just as found in the Diaglott. The Diaglott's interlinear translation of the Greek, word for word, makes the distinction between Jehovah as 'GOD' and the Logos as 'God' still clearer, reading as follows: "In a beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and a god was the Word.

This was in a beginning with the God.' Happily the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE CHRISTIAN GREEK SCRIPTURES (published in 1950) renders John 1:1, 2: 'Originally the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. This one was originally with God.' Thus the Word or Logos came into existence long before one of God's later creatures made a devil out of himself and became, as he is called in 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NWT), 'The god of this system of things.' "

The above explanation is a good example of the extent to which wicked men will pervert the Holy Scriptures in order to sustain their false doctrinal position. Competent Greek scholars cite two elementary rules of Greek grammar to demonstrate that the Jehovah's Witnesses translation is false.

(1) The function of the article *the* is to point out individual identity, not uniqueness, necessarily. When *the* is used with God, it means God previously mentioned, whom the readers already know, in contrast to the vague general concept of God. "God" or "Lord" is tantamount to a proper name in the Bible and obeys this same rule. For example in John 3:2, the Greek has "come from God" (no article). Is Jesus, therefore, according to the Jehovah's Witnesses, only coming from a god? No, He came from His Father. The stress here is on the essence of God, not on His personality.

(2) The second rule, propounded by the famous scholar, E. C. Colwell, absolutely dissolves the Jehovah's Witnesses position. Colwell's rule states, "(a) Definite predicate nouns take the article only if they follow the main verb; (b) otherwise, they lack it; (c) proper nouns lack the article." When this Greek principle is applied to John 1:1, it is perfectly clear that the King James translation is correct, and that the Emphatic Diaglott and the New World Translation are wrong.

In order that you may see this more clearly, let me quote from THE KINGDOM OF CULTS by Walter R. Martin, and printed by permission of Bethany Fellowship Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota. This book was copyrighted in 1965.

"The subject of the sentence is Word (Logos), the verb,

was. There can be no direct object following was since according to grammatical usage intransitive verbs take no objects but instead predicate nominatives which refer back to the subject, in this case, Word (Logos). It is, therefore, easy to see that no article is needed for Theos (God) and to translate it 'a god' is both incorrect grammar and poor Greek since Theos is the predicate nominative of was in the third sentence-clause of the verse and must refer back to the subject, Word (Logos). Christ then if He is the Word 'made flesh' (John 1:14) can be no one else except God unless the Greek text and consequently God's Word be denied."

In a case such as this, ordinary students of the Holy Scriptures must depend on the knowledge of bona-fide Greek scholars. The issue is this - - will you rest your faith on the opinions of men who claim to be Greek scholars, but whose names are unknown to you, and whose scholarship is not recognized by the academic world, or will you put your faith in the testimony of godly men who have been trained in schools of higher learning both in Europe and in America, and who are recognized as scholars by the academic world?

If cults are to propagate their false doctrines, they must pervert the Holy Scriptures in order to do so. They read into Philippians 2:5-8 meanings that were never intended by the Holy Spirit. If you will keep your mind open to the truth, I will show you that this is true. The King James Version of this verse reads, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

The NEW WORLD TRANSLATION reads in this way, "Keep this mental attitude in YOU that was also in Christ Jesus, who, although he was existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely, that he should be equal with God. No, but he emptied himself and took a slave's form and came to be in the likeness of men. More

than that, when he found himself in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes, death on a torture stake."

The unknown writer of LET GOD BE TRUE makes this comment on the above translation, "This one was not Jehovah God, but was existing in God's form. How so? He was a spirit person, just as 'God is a Spirit', he was a mighty one, although not almighty as Jehovah God is; also he was before all others of God's creatures, for he was the first son that Jehovah God brought forth." Thayer, the famous Greek lexicographer, states that the form of God (en morphe) is "the form by which a person or thing strikes the vision, the external appearance."

On page 34 of this same book we read, "Prior to coming to earth, this only-begotten Son of God did not think himself to be co-equal with Jehovah God; he did not view himself as 'equal in power and glory' with Almighty God; he did not follow the course of the Devil and plot and scheme to make himself like or equal to the Most High God and to rob God or usurp God's place. On the contrary, he showed his subjection to God as his Superior by humbling himself under God's almighty hand, even to the most extreme degree, which means to a most disgraceful death on a torture stake. To quote the EMPHATIC DIAGLOTT translation, at Philippians 2:5-8: 'Christ Jesus, who, though being in God's form, yet did not meditate a usurpation to be like God, but divested himself, taking a bondman's form, having been made in the likeness of men; and being in condition as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.'"

Whose interpretation will you follow? Will you accept the explanation of unknown writers, who use the wrong method of Bible study, and who stoop to changing the Sacred text, or will you be guided by the Holy Spirit, and by godly men who are taught by the Spirit of God, and who are recognized as scholars by the academic world? You had better ponder your decision well, because you will have to face this issue at the Judgment bar of God.

Bishop Lightfoot states, "He emptied, stripped Himself of the insignia of Majesty." Moorehead remarks, "When occasion demanded He exercised His divine attributes."

The editors of the SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE state, 'Nothing in this passage teaches that the eternal Word (John 1:1) emptied Himself of either His divine nature or His attributes, but only of the outward and visible manifestations of the Godhead. God may change form, but He cannot cease to be God. At all times His (Christ's) divine attributes could be exercised according to His will.'

Walter R. Martin has this comment on this passage, "I should also like to call attention to an extremely bold example of misquoting so commonly found in Watchtower propaganda. On page 22 the Russellite oracle declares, ' . . . Paul makes clear that Christ Jesus in his pre-human form was not equal to his Father. Philippians 2:1-11 (NWT) he counsels Christians not to be motivated by egotism but to have lowliness of mind even as Christ Jesus had, who, although existing in God's form before coming to earth was not ambitious to become equal with his Father.'

"Now as far as the original Greek text of Philippians 2:1-11 is concerned, this is an absurd and plainly dishonest statement. Paul never even mentions Christ being ambitious to attain anything at all or even His lack of ambition, since no Greek term there can be translated "ambition." Jehovah's Witnesses themselves do not use the word ambition in their own NEW WORLD TRANSLATION, nor does any other translator that we know of. Despite this, however, they introduce the term which clouds the real meaning of the Greek terms. Further than this, and worse, the Watchtower plainly attempts to use Paul's declaration of Christ's Deity as a means of confusing the issue. They maintain that Paul here taught that Jesus was inferior in Nature to His Father, when in reality Paul's entire system of theology says the opposite. If we are to believe the Greek text, Paul declares that Jesus did not consider equality with God something 'to be grasped after, or robbed' (Greek *arpazo*) since He previously existed as the eternal Word of God (John 1:1) prior to His incarnation (John 1:14), and as such shared the Father's prerogatives and attributes. Hence He had no desire to strive for what was His by Nature and inheritance." This quotation was taken from THE KINGDOM OF CULTS by Walter R. Martin, and printed by permission

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In order to maintain their false doctrinal position, the translators of the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION of the HOLY SCRIPTURES have changed the sacred text to make it appear that Jesus was so humble that He could not possibly have the thought that He should be equal with God. In reality the Holy Spirit was saying exactly the opposite of this through the Apostle Paul. The Holy Spirit is saying that Jesus did not think that equality with God was a thing that He had to grasp after. A person does not have to seek for something that He already has. If a son has received an inheritance from his father, he does not have to seek it. Jesus did not have to seek for equality with God because He was equal.

This passage in Philippians is one of the key passages of the Bible, and we can be assured that Satan will do all within his power to cloud its meaning. We need to understand why Jesus Christ became a man, and why He lived as a man on the earth. He came to be a man that He might restore man to what God intended that man should be. Though He was God, He lived as a man among men. He came to teach men to depend on Him in every area of their lives, even as He, though God, depended on the Father in every area of His human physical life.

The context shows us that there is absolutely nothing in this passage that denies the Deity of Christ. Even the NWT shows this. I quote verses 2:9-11. "For this very reason also God exalted him to a superior position and kindly gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, and those on the earth and those under the ground, and every tongue should openly acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father."

In 197 instances the translators of the NWT have rendered Lord as Jehovah. Why didn't they do it here? But even though they did not render it in that way, it is still true. The name that God has given Jesus that is above every name is the name Jehovah. See chapter seven of this book for the proof of this statement. At the Judgment bar of God every knee will bow and every

tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Jehovah to the glory of God the Father. When we study Isaiah 45:23 in the light of its context we see that this is true. What a fearful thing then, to say that Jesus is a lesser deity!

THE FIRSTBORN OF EVERY CREATURE

The third reference in which the sacred text is changed by the NWT translators is Colossians 1:15-19.

The King James Version text of these verses is as follows "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell."

The text in the NWT of these verses is as follows: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; because by means of him all (other) things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities.) All (other) things have been created through him and for him. Also, he is before all (other) things and by means of him all (other) things were made to exist, and he is the head of the body, the congregation, he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things; because God saw good for all fulness to dwell in him."

On the basis of this false translation, the Jehovah's Witnesses frequently make the assertion that this passage teaches that the Father created the Son. On page 32 of LET GOD BE TRUE we read these words - - "Also in Colossians 1:15 he is spoken of as 'the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.' Thus he is ranked with God's creation, being first among them and also most beloved and most favored among them. He is not the author of the creation of God; but, after God

had created him as his firstborn Son, then God used him as his working partner in creating all the rest of creation." What a perversion of the truth!

In these verses the Apostle Paul is not degrading Christ and making Him to be a creature of God, but is, through the Spirit, exalting Christ in what is called the central Christological passage of the Bible. Instead of picking out one statement in part of verse fifteen, and imagine that it teaches that Christ is a creature, read all of these verses for yourself, and see if they do not teach exactly the opposite of what Jehovah's Witnesses profess that they teach. By inserting the word "other" into the text four times where it does not occur in the Greek text, the translators of the NWT have attempted a subtle perversion of the Greek text. What an awful thing to do! And how great will be the condemnation of those who stoop to such underhanded devices. You must not be led astray by them.

"Firstborn" and "first created" are two entirely different words in the Greek language. Greek scholars tell us that the word for "first created" is *protokiss*, and that the word for "firstborn" is *protokos*. The Apostle Paul deliberately avoided using the word for "first created," instead he used the word for "firstborn." The Holy Scriptures teach that Christ was not created, but that He is the creator. He is eternal.

The Jews understood the term "firstborn" to refer to position and rank. The firstborn son was the father's heir. All that the father possessed was his. As the "firstborn," Christ is the appointed heir of all creation. In these verses, the Apostle Paul speaks not only of Christ's priority to all creation, but also of His sovereignty over all creation. Verse nineteen states, "For it pleased the Father that in him (Christ) should all fulness dwell." What does this fulness include? Colossians 2:9 tells us - - "For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." What a tremendous revelation this is - - the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Christ. Dear friend, you will be judged in the light of this revelation.

FIVE MISAPPLIED TEXTS

In chapter two I called to your attention that there

is a right way and a wrong way to study the Bible. The right way is to come to the Bible with an honest heart, and with an open mind, depending on the Spirit of God to guide you into all truth. In using this method you should take any book in the Bible and study it as a whole, seeking to get the message that God has for you. I want to assure you that if you follow this method you will not be a Jehovah's Witness for the simple reason that they do not build their doctrines on this method of Bible study.

The wrong way to study the Bible is to have your own preconceived notions as to what you think the Bible teaches, and then to search through the Scriptures to find proof text to substantiate your own beliefs. This is the method that is used by all of the cults. That is why they are cults. Let me illustrate by showing how the Jehovah's Witnesses establish what they believe about Jesus Christ. They start with the basic premise that Jehovah is the only true and living God, and that, therefore, Jesus Christ cannot be Jehovah God.

Though they wish to prove that Jesus is not Almighty God, on the basis of Isaiah 9:6 they are compelled to admit that Jesus is a Mighty God. This brings them into the dilemma of having two Gods: Almighty God who is Jehovah and a Mighty God who is Jesus. And yet their basic premise is that there is but one God. This is brought out in their interpretation of John 1:1. A conversation with them will go something like this:

You ask, "Do you believe in one God?"

They will reply, "Yes."

"Who is the one God?"

"He is Jehovah."

"Is He Almighty or Mighty?"

"He is Almighty."

"Then who is 'a god' according to the New World Translation?"

"He is Jesus."

"Is He Almighty?"

"No, He is the Mighty One."

"Where did He come from?"

"He was created by Jehovah."

The absurdity of their position is readily seen. They

ridicule Christians for worshiping a "three-headed monstrosity," but they admit that they have a big God and a little God, and that they worship both of them!

I invite you to read Isaiah 43:10 with me, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD (Jehovah), and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." What does this verse of Scripture do to the "big God" and the "little God" theory? It annihilates it. Jehovah God said that there would be no other God created after Him. Yet the Jehovah's Witnesses have to make Jesus, though he is a god, to be a creature of God, and the Bible says that this cannot be. What kind of a god would a created god be?

The Jehovah's Witnesses have about five well-worn proof texts from which a single statement or two is taken to prove that Jesus is not Jehovah God. One of their favorite texts is the last line of John 14:28, "For my Father is greater than I." They boldly proclaim, "Since Jesus, himself, said that God was greater than he was, who am I to argue with what Jesus said?" With arrogance they make it appear that they have an air-tight case. It would be easy for us to pass this verse by with the simple explanation that Jesus was speaking as a man; and that as a man, He said that God was greater than He was. Though this explanation is true, we will delve more deeply into the truth. Please remember that no Bible doctrine can be based on one verse, or a part of a verse that is taken out of context. When I say 'taken out of context,' the entire Gospel of John was written to establish the Deity of Christ (John 20:31). In this case the Jehovah's Witnesses have based their doctrine on the one word "greater" which is a translation of the Greek word "meizon." When we study this one verse in the light of the context, it is apparent in which sense Jesus spoke of the Father as being greater than He. The Greek word "kreitton" which is translated "better" in Hebrews 1:4 helps us to understand this. Christ was better than the angels, and the Father, because of the incarnation of Christ, was greater than the Son in position. For example, the president of a college may or may not be a greater man than the members of the

faculty, but from the standpoint of the position that he holds, he is in a greater or higher position than they. When we see the difference in these two Greek words, the argument of the Jehovah's Witnesses loses its meaning. For example, compare this verse with three verses that the Jehovah's Witnesses never use in their guided tour through the Scriptures, "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him."

It is strange that the Jehovah's Witnesses would quote Luke 18:18, 19, "And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is God." These are good verses for unitarians to use, since they believe that Jesus was nothing more than a perfect man, but they are not good verses for Jehovah's Witnesses to use for they themselves teach that Jesus Christ was a lesser deity who was not equal to God. We can paraphrase the words of Jesus in this way, "Believing me to be but a human teacher, why callest thou me 'good' for there is none good but one, and that is God."

In order to prove that Jesus was not Almighty God, the Jehovah's Witnesses often ask this question, "If Jesus was God, who ran the universe during the three days that he was dead and in the tomb?" That question is so childish that no intelligent Bible student would ask it. The answer is obvious - - the same God, who is God from everlasting to everlasting, continued to run the universe as He always had run it. Jesus died as a man, but as God He did not die, for God cannot die, or He would not be God!

Let me give you another example of how they take a few words out of context to prove that God is greater than Christ. They quote, "the head of Christ is God." These words are taken from I Corinthians 11:3, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of

Christ is God."

Read this section for yourself and see if you think that the Apostle Paul is seeking to establish the fact that God is greater than Christ. The Bible teaches in many places that man is the head of the woman, and that the woman is to be subject to the man. It also teaches that Christ is the head of the man, and that man is to be subject to Christ. It also teaches that Christ as a man was subject to God, that He was entirely dependent on God, and that He did nothing without being directed as to what He should do (John 5:19, 5:30. 7:16, 8:28).

We have seen from our study of Philippians 2:5-11 that one of the reasons why Christ came into the world was in order to be the man that God intended that man should be. If He was to do this, He must live as a man among men, and as a man He must not depend on His own Deity, but must rather depend on the Father to do the work in Him. We as Christians are to be dependent on the Father. I Corinthians 11:3 states that the man is the head of the woman, and the Scripture teaches that the woman is to be in subjection to the man. Does this mean that a woman is less of a human being than man because she is in subjection to him? Certainly not! And Christ is no less God because He was subject to the Father. As a boy, Christ was subject to Joseph and Mary. Does this mean that He was less than they were because He was subject to them?

Another misapplied text that is used by the Jehovah's Witnesses is I Corinthians 15:28, "And when all things shall be subdued unto him (Christ) then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." In order to understand this verse you will have to start reading with verse 20 and read through verse 28. From our study of I Corinthians 11:3 we have seen that Christ as a man was in subjection to the Father. One of Christ's great ministries now is that of a mediator at the right hand of the Father. All that they do is in perfect harmony. There is no spirit of jealousy between the members of the Godhead. Time has a beginning and time will have an ending. Time is a line of duration that is bounded on either end by eternity. During time,

Christ has been assigned by the Father to bring all things into subjection under His feet. When time comes to an end (at the end of the millennial reign of Christ) we will step out into eternity. There will be no need for Christ to serve as mediator, and as such to be in subjection to the Father. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit will then indeed be God all in all.

In Revelation 3:14 the King James Version and the New World Translation, refers to Jesus as "the beginning of the creation of God." This is the same problem that we faced in Colossians 1:15, but the difficulty here is a problem of translation. The margin of the New American Standard New Testament states that the word "beginning" should be origin or source. THE NEW ENGLISH BIBLE declares that Christ is "the prime source of all of God's creation." William F. Beck translates this as "The origin of God's creation." THE AMPLIFIED NEW TESTAMENT states, "These are the words of the Amen (Christ), the trusty and faithful Witness, the Origin and Beginning and Author of God's creation." The Greek word for "beginning" is arche and can be correctly rendered "origin." The NWT translators recognize this meaning because they render it in this way in John 1:1. The problem of this text is solved when we recognize that Christ is the origin of God's creation, and not the beginning of it.

Perhaps you may be a bit confused at this point as to whom to believe or what to believe. Prayerfully study the next chapters with us, judging for yourself whether or not the interpretations that are given in this booklet are in harmony with the teachings of the Word of God. Do not judge the teachings of this booklet or the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses in the light of proof text that are advanced, but judge them in the light of the different books in the Bible when they are studied as a complete unit.

THE DEITY OF CHRIST

Chapter Five

The most important question in all the world is the one that Jesus asked about Himself, "What think ye of Christ?" (Matthew 22:41, 42). The poet has put it in this way:

THE QUESTION OF QUESTIONS

"What think ye of Christ?" is the test,
To try both your state and your scheme.
You cannot be right in the rest,
Unless you think rightly of Him:
As Jesus appears in your view-
As He is beloved or not,
So God is disposed to you,
And mercy or wrath is your lot.

Some take Him a creature to be-
A man, or an angel at most;
But they have not feelings like me,
Nor know themselves wretched and lost.
So guilty, so helpless am I,
I durst not confide in His blood,
Nor on His protection rely,
Unless I were sure He is God.

Some call Him a Saviour, in word,
But mix their own works with His plan;
And hope He His help will afford,
When they have done all that they can:
If doings prove rather too light
(A little they own they may fail),

They purpose to make up full weight,
By casting His name in the scale.

Some style Him "the Pearl of great price,"
And say, He's the fountain of joys;
Yet feed upon folly and vice,
And cleave to the world and its toys;
Like Judas, the Saviour they kiss,
And while they salute Him, betray:
Oh! what will profession like this
Avail in His terrible day?

If asked what of Jesus I think,
Though still my best thoughts are but poor,
I say, He's my meat and my drink,
My life and my strength and my store;
My Shepherd, my trust, and my Friend,
My Hope from beginning to end,
My Portion, my Lord and my All.

—Selected—

Since literally thousands of volumes have been written exalting the Lord Jesus Christ, it would be folly to think that we could even begin to tell much about Him in one small pamphlet. The Gospel of John closes with these words, "And there are many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the whole world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen" (John 21:25).

The Apostle John also said this, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30,31).

There is much that the finite mind can never know about the infinite God, but there are some things that God expects us to know and to act on. Our eternal destiny depends on how we react to these great truths that are revealed in the Holy Scriptures. If there is one truth that is more important than any other truth, it is the absolute

Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The fact that Jesus Christ is God, and that He is eternal and equal with God, is clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures.

First, let us study together several references in the Bible that clearly teach the Deity of Christ. Isaiah, the prophet, wrote, "Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Matthew quotes this verse in the first chapter of his Gospel (v. 23), and tells us that Emmanuel means "God with us." If language means anything at all, it means that Jesus Christ is "God with us."

All Bible scholars, Jehovah's Witnesses and others, recognize that Isaiah 9:6 is a definite prophetic reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

"A child is born" refers to Christ's humanity, and "a son is given" refers to His Deity. Christ is given five names in this one verse of Scripture. He is called the "Mighty God," and He is called the "Everlasting Father." Jehovah's Witnesses recognize that the title "Mighty God" refers to the Lord Jesus Christ, but they are quick to point out, and they make much of the fact that He is called "The Mighty God," and not "Almighty God." To bolster their theology they make much of the distinction between "Mighty God" and "Almighty God." They fail to notice that the title, "The Mighty God" is used in apposition with "The Everlasting Father." (This would better be translated "Father of Eternity.") Both titles refer to the One Creator God.

The word "Mighty" is a translation of the Hebrew adjective "gibbor." It can refer to a human hero, or a conquering general, but when it is used with God it denotes Him as One who fights for his people.

In Jeremiah 32:18 we find the following couplet, "The Great, the Mighty God, the LORD (Jehovah) of hosts is his name." This should be very embarrassing to the Jehovah's Witnesses because the "Mighty God" whom they say refers

to the Lord Jesus is used synonymously with Jehovah (LORD). In Isaiah 10:20-21, The LORD (Jehovah), the Holy One of Israel, is referred to as "the Mighty God!" In Nehemiah 9:32 "Our God (Elohim) is in apposition with "Gibbor El" (Mighty God). In Psalms 24:8, "Gibbor" (Mighty) is used twice of Yahweh (Jehovah-LORD)! In Deuteronomy 10:17 we read, "For the LORD (Jehovah) your God (Elohim) is God of gods, a mighty (Gibbor), and a terrible (or awesome)." These references teach us exactly the opposite of what the Jehovah's Witnesses claim that Isaiah 9:6 teaches. (EDITOR'S NOTE: Our thanks to the Reverend Charles Clough for his help with these Hebrew words.)

Each of the Gospels presents Christ to us in a different way. In Matthew, He is presented to us as King, in Mark as servant, in Luke as man, and in John as God. The purpose of the Gospel of John is to establish the Deity of Christ. This purpose is stated for us in these words, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31).

The Gospel of John opens by declaring the Deity of Christ. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1,2).

We know that the "Word" refers to Jesus because verse 14 tells us, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). In another section we have examined the false claim made by the Watchtower Society that the Word was "a god."

One of the reasons why the Jews sought to kill Jesus was that He claimed to be God. "But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore, the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he had not only broken the sabbath, but said that God was his Father, making himself equal with God" (John 5:17,18). Jesus said that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father, and that if they do not honor the Son they do not honor the Father (John 5:23). The Son of God

is not honored when He is made to be a lesser deity; He is not honored when he is made to be a creature instead of the creator.

When Jesus made the statement, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30), the Jews picked up stones to stone him. Jesus said to them, "Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of these works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, For good works we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God" (John 10:33).

Jesus Himself claimed, 'I and the Father are one.' All translations, including that of the Jehovah's Witnesses, render this verse in this way. The marginal note of their translation suggesting that 'are one' means 'are at unity' is an alternative interpretation which is so lacking in justification that the translators did not dare to introduce it into the text itself.

"Here Jesus is represented as claiming much more than having one purpose or outlook with the Father. He claims to be one with the Father in essence; and the Jews understood him to mean this, for they took up stones to stone him for blasphemy (verse 31-33). Psychologically, there was not reason for them to become angry at Jesus if all he asserted was his being one in purpose and outlook with the Father. Many prophets and psalmists had done that much. The anger of the Jews against Jesus is explicable only on the basis of their understanding him to claim for himself equality with God" (Taken from "Jehovah's Witnesses and Jesus Christ" by Bruce M. Metzger).

In the Upper Room discourse Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and believest not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me. The Father dwelleth in me. I am in the Father, and the Father in me" (John 14:9-11).

Since Thomas was not present with the other disciples the first time that Jesus appeared to them after his death, he said, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe." Eight days later Jesus appeared to the disciples again, and this time Thomas was with them. The first one that Jesus spoke to was Thomas. He said, "Reach here thy finger,

and behold my hands; and reach here thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing." And Thomas answered and said unto him, "My Lord and my God." Thomas believed in the Deity of Christ.

"So habitually did Paul think of Christ as fully divine that it comes naturally to him to refer, even in passing, to Jesus Christ and God in the same breath, using the same preposition for both persons of the Trinity. When one considers Paul's strict Jewish monotheistic background and thorough rabbinical training, one is all the more surprised to find Paul using language such as this. Evidently his Jewish faith had been enlarged so as to enable him to regard Jesus Christ in this exalted light. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that Paul not only holds this stupendous view of Jesus, but he assumes that everyone agrees with him about it. He does not argue the point, nor does he seem to be under necessity to defend it against attack within the Church. Even those whom he combats in this Epistle to the Galatians, the Judaizers, so far as we can see, had no quarrel with Paul's lofty view of Christ. In this matter they agreed with Paul and other early Apostles who had seen Jesus as he had walked on the Galilean hills, subject to all the petty limitations of human life. Here then is a truly amazing thing: the consensus of various groups within the early Church was that Jesus Christ must be ranged alongside God the Father."-Bruce M. Metzger.

Here are some examples to illustrate the above statement. In Colossians 2:9 we read, "For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." In order to escape the force of this verse, and in order to support their false doctrine, the New World Translation renders this verse in this way, "because it is in him fulness of the divine quality dwells bodily." This translation and many others are made without any basis of sound scholarship simply to deceive well-meaning people into believing the false doctrines of the Watchtower Society. The Apostle Peter said that false teachers would twist the Scriptures to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16).

First Timothy 3:16 is a clear-cut reference to the Deity of Christ. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the

Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Timothy 3:16).

In 1798 Granville Sharp detected and formulated a rule in Greek Grammar. This rule states that when the copulative "kai" (Greek for "and") connects two nouns of the same case, if the article precedes the first noun and is not repeated before the second noun, the latter always refers to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun. Therefore the rendering of the Revised Standard Version (in this case) is correct which renders this verse, "Awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ is called the great God. The point is that the Apostle Paul writes in this way just as a matter of fact, naturally stating, without defending or explaining, that Jesus Christ is the great God.

The Apostle Peter does the same thing in 2 Peter 1:1. The King James Version and all modern versions render the last part of this verse, "The righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ," but the NWT without any warrant for doing so, other than to defend their unscriptural position, renders the last part of this verse, "the righteousness of our God and (the) Savior Jesus Christ, inserting (the).

If one Scripture is stronger than another on the Deity of Christ, it is Hebrews 1:8, "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." Here God the Father speaks to God the Son, and calls Him "God." What could be clearer than this?

In I John 5:20, the Lord Jesus Christ is called the true God. "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

Over 700 names and titles are given to the Lord Jesus in the Bible. Lord is His divine name; Jesus is His human name, and Christ is His title. Christ is the equivalent of the Hebrew Messiah, or Anointed One. The Apostle Paul

delighted in calling Jesus by His full name. The Lord Jesus Christ, or Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word "Lord" is found in the King James Version of the New Testament 668 times. It is a translation of the Greek word "kurios" 663 times, and of the Greek word "despotes" five times. In most instances kurios is the equivalent of Jehovah. The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures, that is published by the Watchtower Society, demonstrates that this is true by translating kurios as Jehovah in 193 instances in the New Testament. Necessity demanded this in every case where a reference in the Old Testament containing the word "Jehovah" was quoted in the New Testament. In each of these instances no one will debate the fact that Jehovah is the proper translation in the New Testament. In the section in which we study the names of God we will demonstrate that the name Jehovah clearly refers to the Lord Jesus Christ in some instances. That the word "Lord" is a divine name, no one will deny, and that the name "Lord" is applied to Jesus Christ hundreds of times in the Gospels, in the Epistles and in the book of the Revelation no one will dare deny. Therefore, the very fact that Jesus Christ is Lord, that He is Lord of all (Acts 10:36), and that one day every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, clearly demonstrates His Deity.

This is further corroborated by the Septuagint which is a translation of the Old Testament Scriptures into the Greek language. This translation was made between 250 B.C. and 100 B.C., and was used by Greek-speaking Christians such as the Apostle Paul. In every instance in the Septuagint the Hebrew word "Jehovah" is translated by the Greek word "kurios." This translation which was made by Jewish scholars shows that they consider kurios to be the equivalent of Jehovah. Jesus is thy Lord; worship thou Him.

JESUS RECEIVED WORSHIP AS LORD WHEN HE WAS ON THE EARTH

If Jesus was not God, why did He receive worship as God? In Matthew 8:2 we read, "And behold, there came a leper

and worshipped him saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."

In Matthew 9:18 we read, "While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live."

In Matthew 14:33 we read, "Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God."

In Matthew 15:25 we read "Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me."

In Matthew 20:20 we read, "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him."

In Matthew 28:9 we read, "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him."

In Matthew 28:17 we read, "And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted."

If Jesus is not God, He is not as honorable as Paul and Barnabas for they refused to be worshipped (Acts 14:10-18), but Jesus accepted worship. If Jesus is not God, He is not as honorable as the heavenly messenger who gave the revelation to John the Apostle, for when John fell down to worship him, he said, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

Yes, He is thy Lord; worship thou Him.

JESUS HAS THE ATTRIBUTES OF DEITY

We believe in the absolute Deity of Christ because He has the same attributes that are ascribed to God. God is the only true and living God. Dozens of places in the Bible He is called the living God (Joshua 3:10, Psalms 42:2, 84:2, Hosea 1:10). Jesus has life within Himself. "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). "In him (Christ) was life; and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4).

"I am the life" (John 14:6). "When Christ who is our life--" (Colossians 3:4).

"God is love" (I John 4:8, 16). The Apostle Paul prayed for the saints at Ephesus in this way: "That ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge" (Ephesians 3:17-19). In 2 Corinthians 5:14 we read, "For the love of Christ constraineth us."

God is the true God (I Thess. 1:9). Jesus was full of grace and truth (John 1:14). He said, "I am the truth" (John 14:6).

God is eternal (Romans 16:26, Deuteronomy 33:27). Jesus is called the eternal Father or Father of eternity (Isaiah 9:6). "And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (I John 5:11).

An attribute of God is wisdom (Romans 11:33). The Bible says that Christ is made unto us wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30).

God is omnipotent. That means that He has all power. Dozens of times in the Bible He is called Almighty God (Genesis 17:1, 28:3, Ezekiel 10:5). Jesus is omnipotent. He is called "Almighty" (Rev. 1:8). If we were to take verse eight by itself, it could be applied either to the Father or to the Son. The Jehovah's Witnesses cannot allow it to refer to the Son, because to do so would destroy their false doctrinal position. Therefore, the translators of the NWT have translated this verse in this way, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, says Jehovah God, the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty." This is a correct translation, but in this case "Jehovah God" refers to Jesus rather than to the Father. There is not one single instance where the Bible speaks of the second coming of the Father, but there are hundreds of references to the second coming of the Son. In Revelation 22:12,13 Jesus says, "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." If we make Revelation 1:8 refer to Jehovah, and if we make Revelation 22:13 refer to Jesus, we have two "firsts and lasts." Isaiah 41:4, 44:6 and 48:12

refer to Jehovah as "the first and the last." It is impossible to have two "firsts and lasts," therefore these references show us that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament. Additional proof of this statement is given in chapter seven of this book. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." In Philippians 3:21 we read, "He is able to subdue all things unto himself."

God is omniscient, that is, He knows all (Psalms 33:13-15, 139:2, 147:4, Isaiah 46:9,10). Jesus is omniscient. Peter said, "Lord, (kurios-the same word that is translated Jehovah 237 times in the New World Translation) thou knowest all things" (John 21:17). When Nathanael was under the fig tree, evidently some distance away, Jesus said, "Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee" (John 1:48). This caused Nathanael to exclaim, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel." If Mark 13:32 should be quoted where it is recorded that Christ did not know the day or the hour of His return, this simply means that Christ as a man willingly kept from Himself the knowledge of this particular time while He was a man on the earth.

God is omnipresent. That means that He is everywhere (I Kings 8:27, Psalms 139:7-12, Isaiah 66:1, Acts 17:28). The Bible says that Christ fills all things (Ephesians 1:23). He has promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20 ASV).

God is immutable (He does not change-Malachi 3:6). Jesus is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

It is the prerogative of God to forgive sins (Mark 2:7), but to demonstrate His Deity, Jesus healed and forgave the sins of the palsied man (Mark 2:9, 10).

God is the Creator (Genesis 1:1). Jesus created all things (John 1:3, 10, Colossians 1:16, Ephesians 3:9, Hebrews 1:2,10).

God raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:9). Christ also raises the dead (John 5:21).

THE TWO ALTERNATIVES

There are but two alternatives. Either Jesus Christ is

what He claimed to be, and what the Scriptures present Him to be — the Messiah of God (John 4:26), the virgin-born Son of God (John 1:49, Luke 1:35), God manifest in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16), God (John 1:1, Hebrews 1:8) or He is the illegitimate son of an adulterous woman. He is a fraud and a deceiver, if He is not what He claimed to be.

The position taken by the Jehovah's Witnesses that Jesus Christ is merely the son of God, but not God the Son, that He is a lesser deity, that He is "a god," that He is a Mighty God, but not Almighty God, that He is a creature of God and not the Creator is both without reason and Scriptural basis. God is either God or He is not God. If He is not almighty, He is not God. If He is not sovereign, He is not God. If He is not omniscient, He is not God. Since God cannot be a creature, and if Jesus Christ is a creature then He is not and cannot be God. In a later section we will examine the Scripture about Christ being the first-born of every creature. It is blasphemous to assert that Jesus Christ is a lesser deity. It is the will of God that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father (John 5:23). Christ is not honored when the New World Translation says of Him, "and the Word was a god" (John 1:1). He is not honored when He is called a lesser deity, this title is pure fabrication, without one single line of Scripture to substantiate it, but it is rather a necessary invention of the Watchtower Society since they deny that absolute Deity of Christ.

YOUR DECISION DETERMINES DESTINY

Jesus asked His disciples the question, "What think ye of Christ?" They had to make a decision about what they thought of Him. Was He a deceiver and an imposter, or was He as He claimed to be, the Christ, the Son of the living God?

Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, asked this question, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" He had Jesus on his hands and he had to make a decision as to what he would do with Him. Pilate's wife sent him this message, "Have nothing to do with that just man," but Pilate could not heed her advice. He had a decision

that must be made. Either he must release Jesus and give Him His freedom, or he must deliver Him to the Jews who clamored for His blood. There was no middle ground; there was not an alternative.

In the same way, dear friend, you and I have a decision to make as to who Jesus is, and what we will do with Him. I am sure that you want to make that decision on the basis of what the Word of God teaches about Jesus. You are faced with the alternative of accepting what an organization that had its beginning in the latter part of the 19th century teaches about Jesus, or you can believe what historic Christianity has taught about Christ from the beginning of the Christian Church to the present time. May I give you something to think about? Does it seem reasonable to believe that the great Jehovah-God would leave Himself without a witness on the face of the earth for nearly two thousand years? Does it seem reasonable to follow the teachings of a society that will readily admit that they have changed their doctrines dozens of times? The truth does not change.

You must make a decision concerning Christ on the basis of what the Watchtower Society teaches, or on the basis of what the Bible teaches. The Watchtower Society makes the claim that it is the divinely appointed depository for the truth of God, and that it alone has a right understanding of the Word of God. Please keep in mind a statement that I made earlier that in 36 years of dealing with Jehovah's Witnesses, I have not met a single one of them who knew and understood the message of the Bible. Before you make your final decision that you will be guided by the teachings of the Watchtower Society, I plead with you in the name of Jehovah-God to spend several weeks or months studying the Bible for yourself entirely independent of helps of any kind.

Remember that Satan is a deceiver. He blinds the minds of those who reject the Gospel of Christ (II Corinthians 4:3,4). Christians who study the Bible should be guided by the Spirit of God. Jesus promised, "He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). I invite you to study with me in the next chapter what the Bible teaches about the Spirit of Jehovah.

THE SPIRIT OF JEHOVAH

Chapter Six

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Genesis it is interesting to notice that no name is given of the servant of Abraham who went to seek a bride for Isaac. This servant is a type of the Holy Spirit. Many titles are given to the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible, but no definite name is given to Him. In the King James Version He is called "the Spirit" one hundred and twenty-five times, "the Holy Ghost" eighty-eight times, and "the Holy Spirit" seven times. The titles "the Holy Ghost" and "the Holy Spirit" are identical in the original language, but the translators, for reasons known only to themselves, in seven cases chose to use the words "the Holy Spirit" rather than "the Holy Ghost."

He is called the "Spirit of God" thirty-one times, and the "Spirit of the LORD" thirty times. Four times He is called "the Comforter." The word "comforter" is the best word the translators could find to translate the Greek word for "paraclete." Paraclete literally means "one called along side to help." In using this word Jesus was teaching the disciples that the Holy Spirit was to be all to them and more than Christ had been to them in His physical body. Christ had been with them; the Holy Spirit was to be in them (in I John 2:1, the word "paraclete" is applied to Christ). He is called "the Spirit of Christ" two times, and "the Spirit of Jesus Christ" once.

Four times He is called "the Spirit of Wisdom," four times the "Spirit of Truth," twice He is called "the Spirit of Grace," and twice "the Spirit of Life." He is also called "the Spirit of Adoption," "the Spirit of Faith," "the Spirit of Glory," "the Spirit of Prophecy," "the

Spirit of Burning and Judgment," and "the Eternal Spirit."

In the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES the Holy Spirit is called "the" spirit of Jehovah 16 times (Judges 3:10, 1 Samuel 10:6, 16:13, 2 Chronicles 18:23, 20:14, Isaiah 11:2, 40:7, 59:19, 61:1, 63:14, Ezekiel 11:5, 37:1, Micah 2:7, 3:8, Acts 5:9 and 2 Corinthians 3:17). He is called Jehovah's spirit six times (Judges 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14, and Luke 4:18). The Spirit of Jehovah is referred to in Genesis 6:3, Numbers 11:29, Ezekiel 39:29, Joel 2:28, 29, Haggai 2:5, Zechariah 4:6; 7:12, and (II Corinthians 3:17, 18).

In Ephesians 4:4 we read, "There is one body, and one Spirit." This statement teaches us that though the Holy Spirit has many titles, they all refer to the same being.

The Spirit of Jehovah is the same as the Spirit of God, or the Spirit of the LORD, or the Spirit of Christ, or the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit, or the Holy Ghost, or the Comforter (He is called another helper in the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION). Shortly before Christ's crucifixion Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to take His place, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believed not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you" (John 16:7-14).

The Bible teaches that we are born again by the Spirit

of God (John 3:5). All Christians are indwelt by the Spirit of God (I Corinthians 6:19). All Christians have the Spirit of God (Romans 8:9). Let us study this verse for a moment, for it shows that the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ are one and the same. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9).

All Christians are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). All Christians are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). All Christians are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14). They are to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). They are to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). To be filled with the Spirit means to be controlled by the Spirit.

THE MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are at least 16 things that the Holy Spirit wants to do for every believer. Space will not permit us to study each of these ministries at this time. (For a more detailed study of the Holy Spirit write to us for a free copy of our booklet, "Fire From Heaven.") (1) The one great ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ (John 16:14). (2) The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to be a witness for Christ. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Notice that this verse teaches us that we are to be Christ's witnesses, and that we are not primarily to witness to the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

(3) The Lord Jesus Christ is universally recognized as the greatest teacher who ever lived. In this dispensation the Holy Spirit is taking His place as our teacher. In the shadow of the Cross, Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you" (John 16:7). It was expedient for Christ to go for many reasons: First, He was the Lamb of God who must

take away the sin of the world; second, He must go in order to prepare for His own (John 14:3); and third, He must go so the Holy Spirit could take His place. The personal ministry of Jesus was limited to relatively few people in a small geographical area. The Spirit of Christ teaches unknown multitudes in all parts of the world. Jesus gave us many wonderful promises about the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. Some of them are: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26). "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me" (John 15:26). "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you, all things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you" (John 16:13-15).

When we think about or preach about Heaven we quote, "But it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Cor. 2:9). We can use this verse to apply to the glories of Heaven that will be revealed in a future day, but the primary interpretation of the verse is for the present time. The natural eye has not seen nor the ear has not heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man the things which God has at the present time prepared for them that love Him. The next verse makes it plain that God is speaking of the present when it states, "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God." One reason why we have received the Holy Spirit of God is that we might "know the things that are given to us of God" (I Cor. 2:12). Every Spirit-filled believer knows what it is to sit at the feet of Jesus and to be taught the great truths of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. He takes the things of Christ and shows

them to us. He compares spiritual things with spiritual (I Cor. 2:13). The unregenerate sinner, or the natural man, cannot comprehend the things of God because they must be spiritually discerned (I Cor. 2:14). Only the Holy Spirit can give this understanding. A brilliant scholar though unregenerate may be able to learn many facts about the Bible, but the great principles of grace, and the deep things of God are completely foreign to him because these things can only be comprehended by those who are taught by the Spirit of God.

For this reason an uneducated washwoman who is filled with the Spirit of God can know and understand the ways of God more than will a learned scholar who may be born again by the Spirit of God, but who has not yet learned to be taught by the Spirit.

The Apostle John says that if we are anointed with the Holy Ghost we do not need any man to teach us (I John 2:27). The Bible reveals that teaching is one of the gifts of the Spirit (Eph. 4:11).

(4) "God is love" (I John 4:8,16). Love is a distinguishing badge for the believer (John 13:35). This supernatural love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us (Romans 5:5, Col. 1:8). (5) The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer who is filled with the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23).

In the older books published by the Watchtower Society, the Holy Spirit was referred to as "the invisible power of God." On page 108 of LET GOD BE TRUE we read, "The holy spirit (notice they do not capitalize Holy Spirit) is the invisible active force of Almighty God which moves his servants to do his will."

Such teaching blasphemes the Holy Spirit, and Jesus said, "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Matthew 12:31,32).

The Holy Spirit is a person and not merely "an invisible

power," or "an active force." Study the many references that we have given concerning the Holy Spirit and you will notice that the personal pronoun refers to Him again and again.

Two places in the Bible the Holy Spirit is referred to as "it" or "itself." "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them" (Acts 2:2,3). The word "Spirit" in the Greek language is the same word as "wind." Wind is a neuter noun, and therefore it is modified by the neuter pronoun "it." In Romans 8:16 we read, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." The word "itself" is used here because it modifies Spirit which is a neuter noun. How would you like to be called "a power or an active force"? Would you like for people to think of you as being a mechanical robot?

The Holy Spirit is a person, not merely a power, and He is a divine Person. In dozens of places in the Bible the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2, Exodus 31:3, Numbers 24:2, I Samuel 19:20, 2 Chronicles 24:20, Job 27:3, Isaiah 61:1, Ezekiel 11:24, Matthew 3:16, 12:28, John 4:24, Romans 8:14, I Corinthians 7:40, Ephesians 4:30). By comparing Acts 5:3 with 5:4 we see that the Holy Spirit is called "God." God is a Spirit and the Spirit is God (John 4:24). "The Lord is that Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17). (The New World Translation translates Lord as Jehovah in these verses.)

May I ask you a personal question? What does the Holy Spirit mean to you? I did not say, "What do you believe about Him, but what does He mean to you?" That question transformed the life of a medical doctor by the name of Walter L. Wilson. I invite you to read his own testimony.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Dr. Walter L. Wilson

The first seventeen years of my life, after meeting the Savior were years of much Bible study, much activity,

and no fruit. I had been taught that it was wrong to expect any fruit. Teachers had also instructed me not to speak to the Holy Spirit in prayer, not commune with Him about the work of God, but go to the Father with every matter. The barrenness of my ministry and the lack of results in my service was the cause of no little sorrow and regret.

One day the Lord graciously sent across my path a man of God who said to me, "What is the Holy Spirit to you?" I replied that He was one of the persons of the Godhead. The servant of God answered that this was a true statement, but did not answer his question. "What is the Holy Spirit to you, what does He mean to you?" This inquiry produced a deep heart-searching and I replied "He is nothing to me at all. I know who He is, but I have no personal relationship with Him." My friend assured me that my life was barren and my ministry fruitless because of this neglect. I had been treating the Holy Spirit as a servant of mine. I would ask Him to come and help me when I would teach a class. To be more explicit, I really asked the Father to send His Spirit to help me. This left the Spirit as a servant subject to my call and request. He was never more than an agent of the Godhead to serve me whenever I felt His need and asked the Father for His ministry.

The message which this Christian brought to my heart aroused within me a great desire to know the Spirit and to serve Him successfully. I had a fear, however, of doing the wrong thing and felt that perhaps the Father and the Lord Jesus would be offended if I should go directly to the Spirit about any matter. About this time the Lord very graciously sent a devout minister from Chicago who brought a wonderful message on Rom. 12:1. Having finished his address on the subject, he leaned over the pulpit and said, "It is the Holy Spirit to whom you are to give your body. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19-20), and you are requested in this passage to give it to Him for His possession. Will you do this tonight?"

I left the service deeply impressed with the thought that no doubt here was the answer to my deep need and the relief from my barren life. Upon arriving home I went to my study, laid myself flat on the carpet with

my Bible open at Romans 12:1. Placing my finger on the passage, I said to the Holy Spirit, "Never before have I come to you with myself: I do so now. You may have my body, my lips, my feet, my brain, my hands, and all that I am and have. My body is yours for you to live within and do as you please. Just now I make you my Lord and receive you as my own personal God. I shall see your wonderful working in my life and know you will make Christ very real to my heart. I thank you for accepting me, for you said the gift is 'acceptable.' I thank you for this gracious meeting with yourself tonight."

Upon rising the next morning I said to my wife. "This will be a wonderful day. Last evening I received the Holy Spirit into my life as my Lord and gave Him my body to use for His glory and for the honor of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know He will do it and He will use me without a doubt." She replied, "If anything unusual happens today, call me on the phone. I will be anxious to know." About eleven o'clock I had the joy of phoning home that the Spirit had spoken through my lips to the hearts of two young women, sisters, who had entered my office on business. Both of them trusted the Savior. This was the beginning of a new day of victory, blessing and fruitfulness which have continued since that time. I ceased to neglect and ignore this gracious Person who had come to live with me. Now He was free to use me in His service for the glory of the Lord Jesus.

Your days, too, will be transformed and your life made fruitful if you will give the Holy Spirit the place He should have in your life.

Perhaps you are thinking that this is an isolated case without particular significance, but I want to assure you that such is not the case. The lives of hundreds of thousands of Christians have been transformed when they experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in their own life. Let me give you a few more examples. Dwight L. Moody who was used to stir two continents for God, said this, "I have lived long enough to know that if I cannot have the power of the Spirit of God on me to work for Him, I would rather die, than to live just for the sake of living."

The following statement was made by D. L. Moody's son: "The secrets of Dwight L. Moody's power were these: first, in a definite experience of Christ's saving grace. He had passed out of death into life, and he knew it. Secondly, he believed in the divine authority of the Scriptures. The Bible was to him the voice of God, and he made it resound as such in the consciences of men. Thirdly, he was baptized with the Holy Ghost and he knew it. It was to him as definite an experience as his conversion."

Dr. A. T. Pierson preached eighteen years trusting to literary and oratory and culture. He then sought and obtained "holiness and power" by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He afterward testified to a body of ministers: "Brethren, I have seen more conversions and accomplished more in the eighteen months since I received that blessing than in the eighteen years previous."

James A. Stewart said this, "The entire life of a believer in Christ may be revolutionized by accepting in simple faith the Scriptural doctrine of the ministry of the Paraclete. I believe that in the 14th, 15th, and 16th, chapters of John, we have the deepest and highest teaching concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The words of our Lord concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit should be read prayerfully and carefully day after day on our knees, until the very glory of these precious truths floods and fills our souls.

"The baptism of the Spirit in I Cor. 12:13 is an operation of the Spirit which takes place at regeneration, whether the believing soul is conscious of it or not; whereas the baptism by the Son of God as promised in Acts 1:5 is a conscious experience which takes place in a believer's life when he meets God's conditions. David Brainerd, Hudson Taylor, Handley Moule, Andrew Murray, A. B. Simpson, A. J. Gordon, A. T. Pierson, Evan Roberts, and hosts of others have left a legacy to the Church in their testimonies of such a never-to-be-forgotten experience in their lives, when the Holy Ghost invaded their entire being and took control. There are thousands of little known men and women also who can testify to a definite crisis in their Christian life, when they were empowered from on high. Who could come in contact with these precious souls

and not recognize that there was something different about them from the ordinary type Christian."

Dear friend, do you not see what an awful thing it is to consider the Holy Spirit of God to be a force or a power? God will forgive you of this terrible sin if you will now turn to Him in genuine repentance. Tell the Holy Spirit that you are deeply sorry that you have sinned against Him, and tell Him that you want to begin to know and experience His power in your life.

JEHOVAH—JESUS

Chapter Seven

Though an unbiased study of the names of God completely annihilates the position of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning the name Jehovah, it is almost preposterous even to think of making a study of the names of God in one chapter. However, we trust that we will be able to give you enough information to whet your appetite for further study.

We will divide this chapter into four sections. In Section One we will look at 16 of the most often used names of God in the chronological order in which they are found in the Bible. In Section Two we will look at the compound names of God, and in Section Three we will study the name Jehovah. In Section Four we shall discover that in some instances Jehovah refers to the unity of the Godhead; in some cases it refers to God the Father; in some, to God the Son; and in others to God the Holy Spirit. You do not have to be a Hebrew or a Greek scholar in order to study the names of God. The names that are discussed in Section One can be found in YOUNG'S ANALYTICAL CONCORDANCE. In Section Four we will study the name of Jesus.

SECTION ONE — THE NAMES OF GOD

(1) Elohim — The Bible begins with these majestic words, "In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). This name of God is used 32 times in the first chapter of Genesis, and is used a total of 34 times before the name Jehovah is introduced in Genesis 2:4. Elohim is found 2,570 times in the Old

Testament. It is a plural word which suggests to us the doctrine of the Trinity.

(2) LORD — The compound name LORD God or Jehovah — Elohim is introduced to us in Genesis 2:4 and these two names are used together 19 times until LORD is used by itself for the first time in Genesis 4:1. The Jehovah's Witnesses erroneously teach that Jehovah is the only name of God, and that the other words that refer to God are titles and not names. Though the Bible refers dozens of times to the name of Jehovah (name of the LORD), it also refers to the name of God Almighty (Exodus 6:3), to the name of the LORD God (Isaiah 24:15), to the name God of hosts (Amos 4:13,) the name of God (Elah) (Daniel 2:20).

In most modern translations of the Bible, including the Jewish Masoretic text, LORD is printed in the place of Jehovah. This was done because Jehovah is the ineffable (unutterable) name of God, and the Hebrew scribes feared they would break the third commandment by taking the name of Jehovah their God in vain. They, therefore, substituted the name Adonai for Jehovah. The American Standard Version (1901) correctly prints Jehovah in the place of LORD, as does the New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. More details about LORD will be given in Section Three.

(3) El — This name of God is introduced to us in Genesis 14:18 and it is found 224 times in 22 of the books of the Old Testament, and is found primarily in Job, Psalms, and Isaiah. In several instances it is used as Almighty God or the Everlasting God.

(4) Adonai is first used in Genesis 15:2 in connection with God (Jehovah). Though this word is used interchangeably with Jehovah, it sometimes refers to man as well as to God. It is found about 300 times in the Old Testament and is spelled Lord in contrast to LORD (Jehovah).

(5) GOD is also first found in Genesis 15:2 and each of the 300 instances that it is used in the Old Testament it is used in connection with Lord. The Jews read Elohim, but since the two names are Adonai Jehovah, the correct translation is Lord Jehovah.

(6) Adon (Lord) is first mentioned in Genesis 18:12

where Sarah called Abraham, lord. The name is used to apply to men as well as to God.

(7) Jehovah is printed four times in the King James Version of the Bible (Exodus 6:3, Psalms 83:18, Isaiah 12:2, 26:4), and will be studied in detail in Section Three.

(8) Jah (a contraction of Jehovah) is used 41 times in the Psalms and in Exodus 15:2, 17:16, and in Isaiah 12:2, 26:4, 38:11.

(9) Eloah is found 56 times in the Old Testament, 41 of these times in the book of Job. It is used first in Deuteronomy 32:15.

(10) Strictly speaking, Father may not be thought of as a name of God, but rather as a mode of address. God, the great triune God, the eternal God, Jehovah God is the Father of all who have been born of His Spirit (John 3:1-18). Father is first used as God in Psalms 89:26. It is used nine other times in the Old Testament (Psalms 103:13, Isaiah 9:6), where it refers to the Lord Jesus Christ, two times in Isaiah 63:16, 64:8, Jeremiah 3:19, 31:9, Malachi 1:6, 2:10). It is used hundreds of times in the New Testament, the first reference being Matthew 5:16. In the disciples' prayer, commonly called the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray to God as Father (Matthew 6:9). In the Gospel of John, Jesus calls on or refers to God as His Father 118 times.

(11) Elah is introduced for the first time in Ezra 4:24, and is used 43 times in Ezra, and 45 times in Daniel and once in Jeremiah 10:11. It refers to the true God and to false gods.

(12) We ordinarily speak of Jesus as being the human name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Lord being His divine name, and Christ being His title or office. Jesus in the New Testament is the same as Joshua in the Old Testament. It is found over 900 times in the New Testament the first reference being Matthew 1:1. Jesus means Jehovah's Salvation, or Jehovah is Salvation, or Jehovah's Saviour.

(13) Christ is also found in Matthew 1:1, and it is used 197 times in connection with Jesus. Christ of the New Testament is the Messiah of the Old Testament. It means Anointed.

(14) Lord, the divine name of Jesus, is a translation

of the Greek Kurios and of the Hebrew Adonai and Jehovah. This one name proves that Jesus is God, and that He is Jehovah. This statement will be substantiated in the third section.

(15) God is translated from the Greek Theos 1,276 times in the New Testament. It is first used in Matthew 1:23.

(16) Lord is a translation of the Greek Despotes five times in the New Testament (Luke 2:29, Acts 4:24, 2 Peter 2:1, Jude 4, Revelation 6:10). In each of these instances it refers to deity.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the above study:

(1) God reveals Himself to us through His names.

(2) Each of the names of God has a specific meaning.

(3) Since the names of God are used interchangeably, they all refer to the same God.

(4) Though God could have chosen to give Himself one name, He did not choose to do so.

SECTION TWO – THE COMPOUND NAMES OF GOD

Our purpose in this brief section is to show that the compound names of Jehovah refer to the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the 22nd chapter of Genesis we have the well-known story of Abraham offering Isaac. The Spirit-taught believer readily recognizes that this is a picture of God offering His Son for the sins of the world. The American Standard Version of Genesis 22:14 reads, "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh" which means Jehovah will provide. Jesus is the provision of God for the sins of the world. Christ is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world (John 1:29), and it is His blood that cleanseth us from all sins (1 John 1:7).

Jehovah-rapha is the second compound name of Jehovah that we wish to study. The last line of The American Standard Version of Exodus 15:26 reads, "I am Jehovah that healeth thee." References to Jesus as our healer in the New Testament are too numerous to give. Jesus is called a physician (Luke 4:23, 5:31).

Jehovah-nissi means Jehovah my banner (Exodus 17:15 in both the KJV and ASV). Banner does not necessarily

refer to a flag but to any thing that was lifted up. Jesus was lifted up on the Cross for our transgression' (John 3:14, 8:28, 12:32-34).

"Then Gideon built an altar there to Jehovah, and called it Jehovah-shalom" (Judges 6:24 ASV). Jehovah-Jesus is our Peace (Isaiah 9:6. Ephesians 2:14).

The LORD is my Shepherd - Jehovah-ra'ah (Psalms 23:1) Jehovah-Jesus is our Shepherd (1 Peter 2:25). Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). He is the great shepherd (Hebrews 13:20), is the chief shepherd (1 Peter 5:4).

Jeremiah 23:5,6 (ASV) are two very difficult verses for the Jehovah's Witnesses to explain away. "Behold, the days come, saith Jehovah, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and do wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called: Jehovah our righteousness (Jehovah-t sidkenu)." These verses are a clear-cut reference to the Second Coming of Christ. Who but Jesus could be the righteous Branch that was raised up unto David? He is called Jehovah our Righteousness. Jehovah-Jesus is our righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30).

Other compound names of Jehovah are: Jehovah-M'kaddesh (Exodus 31:13), Jehovah-Sabaoth-Jehovah of Hosts (used many times in the Bible, 1 Samuel 1:3), Jehovah-Elyon-Jehovah Most High (Psalms 7:17, and Jehovah-Shammah-Jehovah is present (Ezekiel 48:35).

My friend, it will be a fearful thing in the day of judgment to face Jehovah-Jesus as your judge (the Father has committed all judgment to Him) (John 5:22, 27, Acts 10:42, Acts 17:31), and to realize the awful mistake that you made considering Him to be a lesser deity. The Bible says of Him, "From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them" (Revelation 20:11). My friend, in that day you will regret that you allowed Satan to deceive you through a false system that has subtly twisted the Word of God in order to establish its own false doctrine. But there is more to come. Prayerfully study the third section with us.

SECTION THREE-JEHOVAH

Let the reader be assured that the writer of the booklet is not making an attack on the name of Jehovah. I agreed with Dr. L. S. Chafer, the founder and first president of the Dallas Theological Seminary, when he said, "The name Jehovah exhibits the innermost depths of the Divine Being. It is the ineffable name which represents that eternal exaltation which cannot be communicated to any creature. The name Jehovah is more fully defined in the Scriptures as to its meaning than all other titles of Deity together."

Though I can in a measure understand the feeling of devout Hebrew scholars who did not wish to take the ineffable name in vain, I rejoice that the American Standard Version of the Bible has used Jehovah instead of LORD in the Old Testament. They did not follow this same practice in the New Testament because of the difficulty of determining, in some cases, whether the Greek word kurios should be translated Lord or Jehovah. The translators of the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION of the Holy Scriptures faced this same problem. The Greek word kurios is translated as Lord about 700 times in the King James Version. The NWT translators translated kurios as Jehovah 237 times. In some instances they have done this arbitrarily, but in other instances they have had valid reasons for doing so. It should be evident that when a passage in the Old Testament has the word Jehovah in it, and when that passage is quoted in the New Testament, kurios should be translated as Jehovah and not as Lord. In following this practice the NWT translators have gotten themselves into serious difficulty as will be shown later. We have seen that in the Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament) Jehovah was translated as kurios in every case. The question may well be raised, "Why wasn't kurios translated as Jehovah in every case in the New Testament?" Such a practice would be well pleasing to Bible-loving, Christ-honoring Christians, but it would of necessity be completely unacceptable to the Jehovah's Witnesses because this would clearly teach that Jesus was Jehovah, and this would completely destroy their doctrine.

The name Jehovah is used more than twice the number

of times of any of the other names of God. It is found 6,823 times in the Old Testament. In most instances the unity of the Godhead is emphasized in this name (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:18). Jehovah's Witnesses and all other unitarians will readily agree that this is true. They will also agree that Jehovah is the same person as Elohim or Adonai. They also agree that when God is addressed as Father it refers to Jehovah.

In our chapter on the Holy Spirit we have seen that God is a Spirit, and that the Spirit is God. We have seen that "the Lord (kurios) is that Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:17), and that He is called "The Spirit of the Lord (Jehovah)" over 30 times. The Jehovah's Witnesses cannot accept this truth for to do so would destroy their unitarian position.

In this section we wish to establish that in at least nine instances Jehovah and Jesus are one and the same. We will study these Scriptures in the chronological order in which they are found in the Old Testament.

JESUS IS JEHOVAH

(1) When God appeared to Moses at the burning bush, Moses asked Him, "When I come into the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they will say unto me, What is his name? What shall I say to them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: And He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:13, 14). "I AM" is the verb form from which the noun "Jehovah" is formed. It means "the self-existent One who reveals Himself." The Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to the Jews by this same name. He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:56-58).

Though the Jehovah's Witnesses and modernistic preachers may deny the deity of Christ, the Jews of Jesus' day recognized that He claimed to be God, and that He was applying the ineffable name to Himself. They, therefore,

took up stones to stone him. Jesus also used this name three times in the garden of Gethsemane when the Jewish officers came to arrest Him.

He went forth and said unto them, "Whom seek ye?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." In our King James Version we read that Jesus answered, "I am He," but if you will notice the "he" is in italics, and Jesus literally said, "I AM," revealing Himself as the self-existent One, who is Jehovah.

(2) In Isaiah six we read, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD (Jehovah) of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (v. 3). The Apostle John tells us that this is a reference to the Lord Jesus. In John 12:41 we read, "These things said Esias (Isaiah), when he saw his (Jesus') glory and spake of him." The Jehovah's Witnesses tell us Jesus is not Jehovah, but the Apostle John said that He was. Who will you believe? If you will prayerfully and carefully study Isaiah 6:1-10 and compare it with John 12:37-41, you will be convinced that what I tell you is true.

(3) In Isaiah 8:13 we read, "Sanctify the LORD (Jehovah) of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread." The Greek of I Peter 3:15 reads, "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your heart." It is interesting to notice that this verse is rendered in this way in both the KINGDOM INTERLINEAR TRANSLATION of the Greek Scriptures and in the NEW WORLD TRANSLATION. Both of these translations were made by and published by the Watchtower Society. Usually in both of these translations, kurios is translated as Jehovah when the New Testament reference corresponds to an Old Testament reference in which LORD (Jehovah) is used. Why didn't they do it in this case? The answer is obvious. Had they done so the reading would have been, "But sanctify Christ as Jehovah in your heart," and this would have destroyed their manufactured doctrine.

(4) In Matthew 3:1-3 we read, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

In Mark 1:1-3 we read, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

In Luke 3:4 we read, "As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

In John 1:23 we read, "He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias."

The Holy Spirit has used Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to state in each of their Gospels that John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ who was sent to prepare the way before Him. Any honest reader of the Scriptures will readily recognize that this is true, but the Jehovah's Witnesses can not accept this as truth because to do so would destroy their doctrine. Each of these four references is a quotation of Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD (Jehovah), make straight in the desert a highway for our God." The Jehovah's Witnesses cannot allow the references in the four Gospels to be applied to Jesus because to do so would be to admit that Jesus is Jehovah.

I wrote to the Watchtower Society in Brooklyn for their explanation of this situation, and in their typical explain-away-truth fashion they sought to prove that the New Testament's references were to Jehovah and not to Jesus. To their way of thinking these verses could not possibly apply to Jesus because He could not possibly be Jehovah even though this is what these references clearly teach, when the New Testament verses are compared with the Old Testament reference. Their reasoning is like that of pseudo-scientists who deny the resurrection of Christ. They argue, "There is no scientific proof that any person was ever raised from the dead; therefore, Jesus Christ could not have been raised from the dead." The Jehovah's Witnesses reason that Jesus is merely the Son of God and, therefore, He could not be Jehovah.

(5) The Jehovah of the Old Testament declared Himself to be the First and the Last. "I the LORD (Jehovah), the first, and the last; I am he" (Isaiah 41:4). Jesus calls Himself the First and the Last (Revelation 1:17, 18, 22:12-16). Therefore, Jesus identifies Himself as being Jehovah.

(6) In Isaiah 45:23 we read, "That unto me every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall swear." In verse 21 the speaker is identified as being the LORD (Jehovah). This verse is quoted in Romans 14:11 where it is applied to Jesus. "For it is written (Isaiah 45:23), As I live, saith the Lord (we know that this is Jehovah from the Old Testament reference, but the NWT translators did not dare translate it as such because to do so would destroy their doctrine), every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." We know that this refers to the Lord Jesus Christ because Romans 14:10 (the preceding verse) speaks of the Judgment Seat of Christ. We also know that the Bible teaches that the Father has committed all judgment to the Son (John 5:22, Acts 17:31).

(7) Three of the greatest verses in the Bible telling the unconverted how to be saved are Romans 10:9-11. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus (the margin reads, 'Jesus as Lord' and this is also in the reading of the NWT), and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believed unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Verse eleven is a quotation of Isaiah 49:23b, "thou shalt know that I am the LORD (Jehovah): for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me." Here again we have an example of where the Old Testament reference refers to Jesus. This clearly shows that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament.

Before we leave Romans 10:9,10, let me remind you of the NWT rendering of verse nine, "that Jesus is Lord." Since the NWT translators have translated kurios as Jehovah in 237 instances they could have translated it as Jehovah here, but to have done so would have destroyed their doctrine.

(8) When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost he

quoted the prophet Joel and said, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." This is a quotation of Joel 2:32a, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD (Jehovah) shall be delivered." The NWT has correctly rendered this verse as, "and every one who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved." The problem that they have not faced is this: In Acts 4:12 Peter, referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, preached, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Yes, we are saved by calling on Jehovah, but when we call on Jesus we are calling on Jehovah. What other conclusion can we reach?

(9) In Zechariah 12:10 we read, "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplications and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." When we go back to verse four of this chapter, we see that the LORD (Jehovah) is the speaker, and Christ is the only person of the Godhead of whom it could be said that He was "pierced." Revelation 1:7 verifies that this refers to Jesus.

(10) In Zechariah 14:9 we read, "And the LORD (Jehovah) shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD (Jehovah), and his name one." The book of Revelation makes it abundantly clear that the One who will be king over all the earth is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the Jehovah who will be king over all the earth. There are many Scriptures to substantiate this statement. Here are three of them "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever" (Revelation 11:15). In Revelation 19:16 we read, "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." In Revelation 2:6, it reads, "But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."

Dear friend, whom will you believe, God or man? Which teaching will you follow concerning the name Jehovah? Will you accept what the Word of God says, or will you be deceived by a system that set itself up as the only depositor of the truth of God, and that did not even begin to teach about Jehovah until there was a split in their movement. In 1931 Judge Rutherford began to use the name of Jehovah as a rallying point for the members of the Watchtower Society.

SECTION FOUR — THE NAME OF JESUS

It is logical for the Jehovah's Witnesses to desire to magnify the name Jehovah. On page 18 of THE TRUTH THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE they write, "The vital point is not what pronunciation you use for the Divine Name, whether "Yahweh," "Jehovah", or some other, as long as the pronunciation is common in your language. What is wrong to fail to use that name? Why? Because those who do not use it could not be identified with the ones whom God takes out to be 'a people for his name' (Acts 15:14).

In the first place we should know that no one is identified with God because of any name that he uses or does not use. We are identified with God when we are reconciled to Him through the death of His Son (2 Corinthians 5:19). We are identified with God by being baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13). We are identified with God, not by using any name, but by receiving His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, into our hearts (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20).

In this brief section I wish to show that the emphasis is on the name Jehovah in the Old Testament, and that it is on the name of Jesus in the New Testament. Over 700 names and titles are given to Jesus in the Bible.

I wrote the above sentences before I went through the New Testament making a word count of how many times "the name of the Father," "the name of God," "the name of Jesus" are used in the New Testament. What I discovered has overwhelmed me, and has confirmed beyond my fondest expectations that Jesus has a name that is above every name, and that it is correct for us to emphasize

the name of Jesus rather than the name Jehovah. Those who study the Bible with the help of the books and literature put out by the Watchtower Society would never have made such a discovery as this in their guided tour through the Scriptures.

In the Old Testament we find "the name of the LORD" (Jehovah) used about 50 times. In the New Testament we have the "name of the Lord" eleven times and in most of these instances translated as "the name of Jehovah" in the NWT. The "name of God" is found seven times; the "name of the Father" eight times. The name when it refers to Jesus is found at least 91 times! We will not quote all of these 91 references, but I believe that it will be most helpful in many ways, and that it will enable us to get our doctrine straight about the Lord Jesus Christ, if we will prayerfully ponder a number of these references.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). This verse of Scripture came to me as a new revelation after I had been in the ministry over twenty years. For the first time I saw that salvation is not in a church, not in a creed, not in a doctrine, not in a plan, but in a Person, and that Person was the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a revelation that must come to us from God.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he the power (the authority or legal right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). Whose name? The name of Jesus!

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

How are we to pray? "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye ask any thing in my name, I will do it" (John 14:13,14). Also see John 14:26, 15:16, and 16:23,24.

"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). We have life through the name of Jesus! We do not receive life by doing certain things, or by not doing other things. We do not

receive life by joining a church, or by being affiliated with the Watchtower Society. We do not receive life by studying the Bible, or by obeying the commandments of God. We receive life when we come to God through His son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Acts read: 2:38, 3:6,16, 4:10,12,18,30, 5:28,40,41, 8:12,16, 9:14,15,16,27,29, 10:43,48, 15:26, 16:18,19:5,13,17, 21:13,22:16, and 26:9.

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:20,21). What will you do with a verse like this? Will you twist it, and try to fit it into some false system of doctrine, or will you believe it and thank God for the wonderful salvation that you have in and through His Son?

There are about a dozen and a half verses between Ephesians 1:21 and Revelation 22:4 that refer to the name of Jesus, but before I close this section I want us to look at three other verses. "Wherefore God hath also highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). There are two significant things that we should notice: (1) God has given Jesus a name that is above every name. (2) At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. To confess that Jesus Christ is Lord is to confess that He is God, for Lord (kurios) is used interchangeably with God (theos). Verse 11 could be correctly translated, "And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Jehovah, to the glory of God the Father." I base this statement on the following considerations:

(1) Verse 11 is a quotation of Isaiah 45:23b which reads, "That every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall swear." Isaiah 45:21 shows us that the speaker is the LORD (Jehovah). When Jehovah is the proper name that is used

in the Old Testament, and when the verse is quoted in the New Testament, then surely kurios should be translated as Jehovah rather than as Lord. The translators of the NWT have followed this policy except where the reference is clearly to Jesus, and to translate kurios as Jehovah in those cases would be to destroy their doctrine.

(2) I remind you about what we have already discovered concerning the Septuagint. The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Old Testament, and in about 700 cases the translators translated Jehovah as kurios.

(3) We have seen that the compound name of Jehovah refers to Jesus.

(4) By comparing Old Testament references with New Testament references we have seen that in at least nine instances the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New Testament.

If this is a proper translation of verse 11, and if Jesus Christ is Jehovah, where does this leave you? What will you say to Him when one day you stand in His presence and face Him as your judge? When you stand before Him and realize that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and when you realize that you were deceived into believing that He is "a lesser deity," "a god," merely a son of God, a creature of God, will you not cry out for the mountains and rocks to fall on you to hide you from His wrath (Revelation 6:16)? We must face Him in grace or in wrath. The wise thing and the proper thing for you to do is to break away from the false system of teaching which has ensnared you and begin to study the Bible for yourself, asking the Holy Spirit who is the writer, and interpreter of the Scriptures to guide you into all truth. It should be obvious to any honest and fair-minded person that any system (and there are many other false systems beside the Jehovah's Witnesses that fall into this category) which claims to be the only depository of the truth must be false. "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

THE HOLY TRINITY

Chapter Eight

Pastor Russell wrote that the doctrine of the Trinity was well suited to the Dark Ages that it helped to produce. It is one thing to make a categorical statement like this; it is another thing to be able to substantiate it. I will make the categorical statement that there is not one shred of evidence to prove that the statement by Pastor Russell about the Trinity is true. The Dark Ages were brought about primarily because a pseudo-Christian system kept the people from having the Word of God in their own language. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple" (Psalms 119:130). People that are in the bondage of any religious system will be in darkness. If we are to walk in the light, we must know and practice the teachings of all of the Bible as it is rightly interpreted by the Holy Spirit, who wrote it. People in all of the cults, including the Jehovah's Witnesses, are in bondage because they fail to know and understand the complete message of the Bible. Jesus said, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Matthew 6:23). In other words, if the knowledge that we think that we have is not true, we actually are in darkness.

The following quotes are about the Trinity and are taken from LET GOD BE TRUE. "It is at once seen that such a doctrine is not of God. The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the trinity doctrine. Embarrassing questions have convinced the clergy that it is far better to say it is all a great mystery. Yes, it would be a mystery if the trinity doctrine were true.

One of the most mysterious things is the question, Who ran the universe during the three days that Jesus was in the grave, or for that matter, during the thirty-three and a half years on the earth while he was made a 'little lower than the angels'?

Any one with a shred of knowledge about God or about the Bible would not ask such foolish questions. The same God who had been running the universe from the beginning of eternity, and who will continue to run it through all the countless ages of eternity, ran it as He always had, during the earthly life of Jesus, and during the three days and nights that the body of Christ as a man lay in the tomb. Christ, as God did not die, for God cannot die.

I have heard Jehovah's Witnesses refer to the Trinity as "a three-headed monstrosity." Such statements make my blood run cold. They are blasphemous, and Jesus said that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (who is a part of the Holy Trinity) will not be forgiven in this age nor in the age to come (Matthew 12:32). Dear friend, in the light of such warnings from the Son of God, you had better be extremely careful about how you refer to any member of the Godhead in particular or concerning all of them together.

Devout Bible students do not claim to be able to explain the Trinity. If poor finite man could understand and explain everything about God, God would not be God. The Bible says, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those that are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Therefore, if we believe that the Bible is the Word of God, we must accept what it teaches even though there is some part of it that we do not understand. The doctrine of the Trinity is just one of several themes in the Bible that transcend the range of human understanding. We cannot understand how Jesus Christ can be perfect man and perfect God at the same time.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He is a lesser deity. How can this be? How can He be God and man at the same time? How could He be born of the virgin? How could He die an atoning

death for the sins of the whole world? How was He raised from the dead? Neither you, nor I, nor anyone else can answer these questions. If we believe that these things are true, it is because we have accepted them by faith.

You and I cannot reconcile the truths of God's sovereignty and of man's free moral agency. (I do not recall having read about the sovereignty of God in any of the Watchtower publications). It is utterly impossible for the human mind to reconcile God's sovereignty with human responsibility without bending one or the other to make it fit.

Since the human mind cannot understand what the Bible teaches about the revealed destiny of the lost, we are faced with two alternatives. Either we can accept what the Bible says, even though we do not understand it, or we can do as the Jehovah's Witnesses do and twist the Scriptures and make them palatable to our taste.

God is infinite. This means that He is unlimited in every way. Man is finite; he is limited in every way. What folly to think that finite man could fully comprehend an infinite God! Think for a moment of who He is and of who we are. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He inhabits eternity. He fills all things. He is greater than the vast universe which He has created. (If you have not read some recent works on astronomy, you should do so in order to enlarge your appreciation of the greatness of God).

And who are we? Just a tiny speck on a speck. This earth, that seems to be so big to us, is by comparison smaller than one grain of sand on the seashore. You and I are just a tiny speck on this earth. The Bible says that even the nations are as the small dust on the balance in the sight of God (Isaiah 40:15). I am taking the time to emphasize the greatness of God, and the nothingness of man to show the folly of thinking that man can fully comprehend God. If we could fully comprehend God, He would not be God.

God has revealed Himself to us in three ways: (1) by nature, (2) through His son, (3) through His Word. We cannot understand the Word of God apart from the illumination of the Spirit of God. "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared

for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Cor. 2:9-12).

We cannot be, and will not be taught by the Spirit of God, if we grieve Him by denying His Deity and personality by saying that He is "the invisible active force of God." We are not to try to twist the Bible to fit into the mold of our own thinking, but we are to adapt our thinking to the teachings of the Word of God. There are many things in the Bible that we do not understand at first, but as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ, God gives us understanding. In Hebrews 11:3 we read, "Through faith we understand," as we believe God gives us understanding; but if we say, "I will not believe unless I can understand," we will neither believe nor understand.

Christians do not believe that there are three gods in one. They do believe that there are three Persons, all of the same Substance, co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal. The Athanasian Creed states the doctrine of the Trinity in this way, "We worship one God in trinity, and trinity in unity; neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance." Or to state the same thing in more simple language, "We believe that there is one God who manifests Himself in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

Why would intelligent people want to believe such a thing as this statement when they cannot understand that it can be true? Simply because they believe that the doctrine of the Trinity is one of the clear teachings of the Word of God. Why have saints, martyrs, missionaries, spiritual giants, both men and women, believed in the doctrine of the Trinity all through the ages of church history? Simply because they believed that the Bible was the Word of God, and that the Bible taught the doctrine of the

Trinity. Any honest-minded person who will take the Bible and will carefully and prayerfully study it will be convinced that the doctrine of the Trinity is true. Of course, if your Bible study consists of a guided tour through the Bible that is taught by those who have rejected all of the cardinal truths of Christianity in order to substantiate their own set of doctrines, you will not discover what the Bible has to say about the Trinity, or the Deity of Christ, or the Deity of the Holy Spirit. You will not discover what the Bible tells men that they must do in order to be saved. If you study the Bible with the help of the Jehovah's Witnesses, or of any other cult, you will never discover the grand and glorious purposes of God. You will never discover the wonderful sufficiency of God, and you will never know the meaning of the marvelous grace of God. You will never discover the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Why take my word for it? Or why should you take the word of any system that claims to be the divine depository for the truth? Why not see for yourself? Why not come to the Bible, and study it for yourself? I can assure you that if you will do this you will not find yourself as a part of any kind of a religious system. You will be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God (Romans 8:21).

It is a good thing to use "helps" in studying the Bible, such as dictionaries, concordances, lexicons and commentaries, but if you study the Bible dependent on any one system of interpretation, you will be in bondage to that system. Think it through! Break away from every man-made system and let the Spirit of God lead you and guide you into all truth (John 16:13).

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY TRINITY

I believe the doctrine of the Trinity as it is revealed in the Bible. Why do I do this? Is it because that I was born a member of some religious system that taught the Trinity, and that my parents and my grandparents believed in the Trinity, and therefore I believe in the Trinity? No, such is not the case. If I had ever heard of the Trinity before I started preaching at the age of twenty,

it was in such an abstract way that I did not have any conception of what it was all about.

When I surrendered to preach, I started studying the Bible in an earnest and systematic way, and I have studied this Blessed Book for thirty-six years apart from the teachings of a religious system. I have studied the Bible seeking to be taught by the Holy Spirit in order that I might know what God is saying to man in general and to me in particular. Though I still believe basically what I did thirty-six years ago, I have a much clearer understanding of the Scriptures than I did when I started studying. In addition to reading and studying the Bible, I have read hundreds of books about the Bible. These books were not written by men who belong to any particular denomination. Through the years I have made it a practice when not preaching or teaching, to attend the services of all kinds of churches, Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal and to attend the services of many of the cults.

I have given you this word of testimony to demonstrate that in believing in the doctrine of the Trinity, I am not blindly following the thinking of religious teachers. I believe in the Holy Trinity because I am compelled to do so, if I am to believe the Bible. You may ask, "Where do I find such teachings in the Bible"?

THE TRINITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Though the unity of the Godhead is taught in both the Old and New Testaments, (Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 41:14, 16,20; 43:3, 14; 44:6,8; 45:5, 14,22; 47:4; I Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 3:20; Eph. 4:6), the doctrine of the Trinity is implied in the Old Testament, and is clearly taught in the New Testament. The Bible opens with these grand words, "In the beginning God." In this instance the word for God is Elohim. Since Elohim is a plural noun, the Trinity is implied in this name. Elohim is translated gods (plural) 195 times in the Old Testament. But, of course, we cannot build a doctrine on such a supposition. However, our case is strengthened when in Genesis 1:26 we read, "Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness." If God is one, and only one, why would He say, "Us

and Our"? But this is not all. At the Tower of Babel, God said, "Go to, let US go down, and there confound their language." Why did God in this case say "Let US," instead of saying, "I will go down"? In Isaiah 6:8 we read, "Whom shall I (unity) send, and who will go for US?" The seraphim cried, "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3). The Father is Holy; the Son is Holy, and the Spirit is Holy (also see Revelation 4:8).

THE GODHEAD

When the Apostle Paul preached on Mars' Hill he said, "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold or silver, or stone, graven by art or man's device" (Acts 17:29). In Romans 1:20 we read, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

In Colossians 2:9 the Apostle Paul wrote, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

What is meant by the word "Godhead"? Is not the doctrine of the Trinity implied in this word? What did the Holy Spirit mean when He said, "In Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily"? The New World Translation had to doctor this verse up to fit their theology and make it read, "because it is in him that all of the fulness of divine quality dwells bodily." If we had to study this verse by itself we would not know what the word "Godhead" meant, but as we think on it in the light of the rest of the Scriptures, it is very plain that it means that both the Father and the Holy Spirit dwell in Christ.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE TRINITY

The Bible tells us that God is light (I John 1:5). There are three kinds of light, and each kind of light is an illustration of the Trinity. Actinic light can neither be seen or felt. When we approach the door of many modern stores, the door automatically opens for us. Why does

it do this? Because that in approaching the door we have broken a beam of light that throws an electric switch that opens the door for us. We can neither see, nor feel this beam of light. Actinic light corresponds to God the Father.

Luminiferous light is the most common kind of light. It is the light that shines in the dark. Though its purpose is to be seen, it can also be slightly felt (like an electric light bulb). Luminiferous light is an illustration of God the Son. He said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12; 9:5). He was seen when He came into the world nearly 2,000 years ago. One of His purposes in coming was to manifest the Father.

Calorific light is primarily to be felt, but also can be slightly seen. It is the light of the sun-ray lamp. The purpose of this kind of light is not to shine and be seen, but to heat and to penetrate. Calorific light is an illustration of the Holy Spirit. Though there are three kinds of light each kind is still light.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The doctrine of the Trinity is revealed many places in the New Testament. No cult, including the Jehovah's Witnesses, denies that God the Father is God. Therefore, we do not give reference to substantiate this truth. The New Testament also clearly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. He is the Son of God and God the Son. He is one with the Father; He is eternal and is equal with the Father. Since we have already established the Deity of Christ in chapter five we will not repeat the evidence given in that chapter.

The Holy Spirit is God. In dozens of places in both the Old and New Testaments He is called the Spirit of God: Genesis 1:2, Exodus 31:3, Numbers 24:2, I Samuel 19:20, 2 Chronicles 24:20, Job 27:3; Isaiah 61:1, Ezekiel 11:24, Matthew 3:16, 12:28, John 4:24, Romans 8:14, I Corinthians 7:40, and Ephesians 4:30.

In Acts 5:3 the Holy Spirit is called "God" when Peter said to Ananias, "Why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?" Then in Acts 5:4 he said,

"Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." We will not repeat the proofs of the Deity and personality of the Holy Spirit that were given in chapter six. If the Father is God, and if the Son is God, and if the Holy Spirit is God, then all three are God, and even though we do not understand it, if we are to honor the Son and the Spirit, we must recognize that they are one with the Father.

In chapter seven in our study of the name "Jehovah", we have seen that usually the unity of the Godhead is stressed in this name, but that in some instances the name "Jehovah" clearly refers to the Father; in some cases it clearly refers to the Son, and in other instances it clearly refers to the Holy Spirit. Thus the name "Jehovah" teaches the doctrine of the Trinity.

The doctrine of the Trinity is taught in the baptismal formula that was given by Jesus. He said, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). "Name" in this verse is singular and not plural. "It affirms: (1) That God is one. (2) That He subsists in a personality which is threefold, indicated by the relationship as Father and Son; by a mode of being as Spirit; and by the different parts taken by the Godhead in manifestation and in the work of redemption. (3) The conjunction in one name of the Three affirms equality and oneness of substance" (Old Edition of the SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE published by the Oxford University Press).

The NEW SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE adds this note on Matthew 28:19, "In progress of revelation the one true God appears clearly in the N. T. as existing in three divine Persons: named here 'the Father,' and 'the Son,' and 'the Holy Spirit.' Compare also Mt. 3:16-17; I Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18, 4:4-6; 5:18-20; I Pet. 1:2; Jude 20-21.

"1. Each of these divine Persons possesses His own personal characteristics and is clearly distinguished from the other Persons (cp Jn. 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15). Yet the three Persons are equal in being, power, and glory: each being called 'God' (Jn. 6:27; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3-4); each possessing all the divine attributes (Jas. 1:17; Heb. 13:8; 9:14); each performing divine works (Jn. 5:21;

Rom. 8:11); and each receiving divine honors (Jn; 5:23; 2 Cor. 13:14).

"2. With reference to the order of their activities, the Father is first, the Son is second, and the Holy Spirit is third; the general formula being as follows: *of* the Father (I Cor. 8:6), *through* the Son (Jn. 3:17), *by* the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:5), and *unto* the Father (Eph. 2:18). Even so, however, no one of the Persons acts independently of the other Persons; but there is always mutual concurrence, as our Lord said, 'My Father worketh hitherto, and I work' (Jn. 5:17); and, 'The Son can do nothing of himself' (Jn. 5:19); and again, 'I and My Father are one' (Jn 10:28-30).

"3. In the N. T. revelation of God as a tri-personal Being, there is no retreat from the stern monotheism of the O. T. (cp. Dt. 6:4-5 with Mk. 12:29-30 and Rom. 3:30). The three divine Persons are *one* God, not three gods. It was necessary in the O. T. to emphasize first the divine unity in order to guard against polytheistic tendencies. But even in the O. T., read in the light of the N. T., a plurality of Persons appears within the one true God (cp. Gen. 1:26; Isa 6:8; 48:12 with 48:16).

"4. The Trinity of God is confessedly a great mystery, something wholly beyond the possibility of complete explanation. But we can guard against error by holding fast to the facts of divine revelation: that (1) with respect to His *Being* or essence, God is *one*; (2) with respect to His *Personality*, God is *three*; and (3) we must neither divide the essence, nor confuse the Persons. Yet in spite of its mystery, the doctrine of the divine Trinity has always proved to be rich in spiritual and practical values.

"5. The importance attached to the divine Trinity, in N. T. revelation, appears in the fact that the doctrine is firmly embedded in two formulas which are constantly repeated in the hearing of the church: (1) the formula of baptism (Mt. 28:19); and (2) the formula of benediction (2 Cor. 13:14). Taken from NEW SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE and printed by the permission of the Oxford University Press."

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are mentioned together in many other passages in the Bible. Some of these references

are: Matthew 12:28; Luke 1:35-37, 2:25-28, 24:49; John 3:5, 20:21, 22; Acts 2:23,33,38,39, 4:8-10, 7:55, 8:14-16, 10:42-44, 20:28; Romans 1:4-7, 8:9,10, 15:16; 15:30; II Corinthians 3:3, 5:5, 6, Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:17, 2:18, 3:14-16, 4:30-32, 5:6-9; I Thess. 1:3-5, 5:18, 19; 2 Thess. 2:13; I Timothy 3:15, 16; Titus 3:4-6; Hebrews 3:4-7, 6:1-4, 10:12-15; I John 4:2, 4:13, 14; Revelation 1:4,5, 14:12,13,22:17-21.

EACH MEMBER OF THE TRINITY HAS THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

The Father is called God (Romans 1:7; 2 John 3). The Son is called God (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:8). The Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-5). The Father is called "the living God:" dozens of places in the Bible (Psalms 42:2; 84:2; Hosea 1:10). "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). "The Spirit is life" (Romans 8:10).

The Father is eternal (Romans 16:26; Deuteronomy 33:27). The Son is eternal (I John 5:11). In Isaiah 9:6 the Son is called the everlasting Father. The Spirit is eternal (Hebrews 9:14). The Father is the true God (I Thessalonians 1:9). Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17). The wisdom of God is unsearchable (Romans 11:33). Christ is made unto us wisdom (I Corinthians 1:30). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom (Isaiah 11:2).

The Father is called the God of peace (Romans 15:33). The Son gives peace (John 14:27). The fruit of the Spirit is peace (Galatians 5:22). The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the source of power (Ephesians 1:19, Matthew 28:18, Acts 1:8). The Father is faithful (I Corinthians 10:13). Jesus is called Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11). The fruit of the Spirit is faith (Galatians 5:22). "God is love" (I John 4:8, 16). "The love of Christ constrains us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). The fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22), and the love of God is shed abroad by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

The Bible speaks of "the things of God" (Mark 8:33); "the things of Christ" (John 16:15), and "the things

of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5). Many times the Bible refers to "the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:15). It speaks of the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). We must be born of the Spirit if we are to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5). Many times the Bible speaks of "the law of God" (Romans 7:22). It speaks of "the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2), and of "the law of the Spirit" (Romans 8:2). The sword of the Spirit is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17), and the Bible is "the word of Christ" (Colossians 3:16).

God the Father is the creator of all things (Genesis 1:1). He created all things through God the Son (John 1:3, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2). He garnished the heavens by His Spirit (Job 26:13). The Father gave His Son to die an atoning death on the Cross for the sins of all men (John 3:16, Romans 8:32, I John 2:2). The Son willingly laid down His own life (John 10:18). Christ offered Himself through the eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14). The Father raised the Son from the dead (Acts 2:24, 30). The Son was restored to life by His own power (John 10:18). He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11, I Peter 3:18). The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each had a vital part in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16; I Peter 1:10, 11; 2 Peter 1:21).

We were chosen by God (Ephesians 1:4); by Christ (John 15:16), and we were elected through the sanctification of the Spirit (I Peter 1:2). We are born of God (I John 3:9, 4:7, 5:1, 4, 18), of the Son (I John 2:29), by the Spirit (John 3:3-5). We are justified by the grace of God (Romans 3:24), by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:9), and by the faith that is wrought in us by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1 with Ephesians 2:8). We are sanctified by God the Father (I Thess. 5:23), by the Son (Hebrews 13:12), and by the Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:2).

We are in the Father (I Thess. 1:1; I John 4:15), in the Son (Ephesians 1:3), and in the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25). The Father is in us (Ephesians 4:6); the Son is in us (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:27); the Spirit is in us (I Corinthians 6:19).

When we receive the Son, we receive the Father (John 13:20). We receive the Holy Spirit by faith (Galatians 3:2).

We are loved by the Father (Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; Romans 5:8). We are loved by the Son (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2; Revelation 1:5). The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). We are to love the Father (Matthew 22:37). We are to love the Son (John 14:15). The fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22). We are to worship the Father (John 4:23). We are to worship the Son (Matthew 2:11). We are to worship in the Spirit (John 4:24). Those who have been taught by God and who have learned of the Father come to Christ (John 6:45). Jesus was recognized as a teacher who came from God (John 3:2). The Holy Spirit is the great teacher in this dispensation (John 14:26; I Corinthians 2:12; I John 2:27).

We are to have faith in God (Mark 11:22). We are to have faith in Christ (John 14:1; Acts 16:31). The fruit of the Spirit is faith (Galatians 5:22). We are to obey God (Matthew 7:21); we are to obey the Son (Luke 6:46). The Holy Spirit is given to them that obey Him (Acts 5:32). We are to know the power of the Father (Ephesians 1:19), of the Son (I Corinthians 5:4), and of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13). We are to be filled with the fulness of God (Ephesians 3:19). The fulness of the Godhead bodily dwells in Christ (Colossians 2:9). We are to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). We joy in God through Christ (Romans 5:11). We are to rejoice in Christ (Philippians 4:4). The fruit of the Spirit is joy (Galatians 5:22). Christ was sent by the Father; we are sent by the Son (John 20:21). Paul and Barnabas were sent by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:4). We are to serve the Father (Joshua 24:14). We are to serve the Son (Acts 20:19). We are to serve in the newness of the Spirit (Romans 7:6).

Thus we discover that a careful study of the Holy Scriptures reveals that the doctrine of the trinity is in harmony with the revealed Word of God. We need to face honestly several questions: Shall we follow the teaching of the Bible, or will we be the blind followers of a false religious system? Will we take our place with those who have stood for the historic doctrines of the church all down through the centuries, or will we accept as true a system

of doctrine that began with Pastor Russell in 1852? Will we take our place as members of the body of Christ, that is composed of all born again Christians, or will we take our place with the Jehovah's Witnesses who did not begin to use that name until 1931? These are good questions for all of us to consider. Does it seem reasonable to believe that the Omnipotent God of all the universe would send His Son in the world to die on a cruel Cross for the sins of all mankind, and that He would raise Him from the dead, and that this Omnipotent God would leave Himself without a witness on the earth for nearly 2,000 years until the Watchtower Society was founded in 1879? Does it seem reasonable for you to believe this? What about hundreds and thousands of spiritual giants who have lived for and died for the cause of Christ from the beginning of the Christian dispensation to this present hour? Have you ever read the life story of John Huss, Count Zinzendorf, Martin Luther, David Livingstone, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Charles G. Finney, Dwight L. Moody, and a great host of others. All of these men, and thousands of others, who did exploits for God believed in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

My friend, God is a Holy God, and He will not look lightly on sin. It is a terrible sin to brush away lightly the teachings of God's Word concerning the Trinity. It is a terrible sin to say that Jesus is a creature of God, to believe that He was created at the same time as Satan. It is blasphemy to say that the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of God is the active force of God.

When Simon, the sorcerer, sought to buy the gift of God with money, the Apostle Peter said to him, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:22,23). With all of the kindness of my heart, and with the compassion of Christ who died for you, I tell you that all who are affiliated with the Watchtower Society are in bondage to a false, Satanic, religious system. In the name of Jehovah-God, I beg you to begin to study the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, book by book, chapter by chapter, doctrine by doctrine,

apart from any system of helps, asking the Holy Spirit to enlighten your mind as you study, and you will soon discover that what I tell you is true, not because I say it, but because the Bible says it.

THE ATONING DEATH OF CHRIST

Chapter Nine

The death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ are the two doctrines that are the foundation of the Christian faith. In this chapter I invite you to study with me the essence of what the Bible teaches about the death of Christ, and in the next chapter we will study the resurrection of Christ.

I use the word "essence" because that is all that we can give about the death of Christ in one brief chapter. Many large volumes on the death of Christ have been written by godly men, and yet all that has been written, and all that has been said, has not even begun to fathom the meaning of all that took place at Calvary, "When God, the mighty maker, died for man, the creatures sin." It is to be regretted that a large percentage of those who now take that name of Christ no longer believe in the faith as it was once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). I agree with the Jehovah's Witnesses that the thing that is called "Christendom" is apostate, that is, many of the leaders of every one of our major denominations no longer hold to Biblical, historic Christianity.

The writers of the Watchtower literature capitalize on this deplorable condition, and make it appear that they are the only ones who believe the Bible and who study it. I have demonstrated in chapter two that this is not true. There are multiplied thousands of born-again, Bible-believing Christians in the big denominations and out of them who know the Lord, and who believe in and study His Holy Word. Many of these people are scholars who have written hundreds of books on the Christian faith.

I invite you to compare the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses concerning the death of Christ with the teachings of the Bible. On page 112 of LET GOD BE TRUE (the revised April 1, 1952 edition) we read, "One of the vital doctrines clearly taught throughout the Bible is that of the ransom which God provided through Jesus Christ for men who love God and have faith in Him." Though this sentence has enough truth in it to catch the unwary, it has error that needs to be recognized. In the first place, I have always thought it strange that the Jehovah's Witnesses use the word "ransom" when referring to the death of Christ. Jesus spoke only one time about giving His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45 refer to the same instance). "Redemption" is used 19 times, and we will study what the Bible means by "redemption" under another heading.

This statement says, "the ransom which God provided for men who love God and have faith in Him." That sounds good, but it is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ gave His life for all men, good and bad, for the whole world (I John 2:2). The Bible specifically states, "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

On page 133 of LET GOD BE TRUE we read, "The Scriptural doctrine of the ransom is that in sending His Son Christ Jesus to earth, Jehovah God provided through Him and His death a redemptive price. Thereby those of men who have faith in God's provision may come in harmony with Him and, serving Him faithfully, they may receive the gift of life." This is a good example of making error sound like the truth. The statement "serving Him faithfully, they may receive the gift of eternal life" sounds good, and fits perfectly into the pattern of those who study the Bible within the Jehovah's Witnesses guidelines, but this is not what the Bible teaches. The Bible does not teach that if men will live in a certain way, and that if they faithfully serve, they MAY receive eternal life. The Bible teaches that ALL who believe on Christ HAVE eternal life. Even the NWT states this, "Most truly I say unto YOU, he that hears my word and believes him that

sent me has everlasting life, and he does not come into judgment but has passed over from death to life" (John 5:24). This one verse blasts the whole Watchtower system to smithereens. Think it through, and you will discover that I am right.

On page 116 of LET GOD BE TRUE we read another very subtle statement that sounds like truth, but is a lie. "The value of the perfect human life was now available for use on behalf of faithful men needing to be ransomed thereby." We are not ransomed or redeemed by the life of Christ, but by His death. We are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ that was shed on Calvary's Cross. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18, 19).

Now in contrast to what the Jehovah's Witnesses teach about the death of Christ, I invite you to study with me in outline form what the Bible teaches was accomplished by His death. We will look at seven definite things.

(1) The atoning death of Christ made it possible for a holy God to forgive sin. It is commonly believed that God forgives sinners because of His love for them; but we must never forget that God is holy and that if He were to arbitrarily forgive sin, He would violate His own holiness. How can God be holy, just and righteous, and yet justify and forgive depraved men who are guilty of the most dastardly deeds? The Cross is the answer to this question. For at the Cross the Lord Jesus Christ, the spotless Son of God, died for the sins of the whole world. He suffered the consequences of sin that every man was due to bear. Because of what Christ has done, God is now free to righteously justify and forgive the vilest sinner on the face of the earth (John 1:29; I John 2:2).

Let me give this illustration to show why God cannot forgive sinners merely because of His love for them. Suppose that a young man who has confessed that he is guilty of a dastardly deed is brought before a judge. Suppose that the judge should say something like this, "My boy, I have known you all of your life. Your father

is one of my best friends; and because of my great love for you, I am going to forgive you for what you have done." The judge would not be just if he did this because others who had been wronged by the young man's crime would not receive justice.

Someone must pay the penalty for sin. Christ did this when He died on the Cross for the sins of the whole world, therefore God can be just and at the same time the justifier of him who believes in Jesus (Rom. 3:26).

(2) The Old Testament sacrifices merely covered sin, but Christ "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26). "He bare our sins in His own body on the tree" (I Peter 2:24). He "suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18). Since He died for our sins (I Cor. 15:3), we will not have to die for them. God could not and would not be holy and just if He let Christ pay the price for our sins on the Cross and then made us pay for them too.

As Christ hung on the Cross, He cried "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). Had God forsaken His Son? Would a loving Father turn His back on His own Son in the hour of His supreme need? Not only had God forsaken Christ, but as He hung on the Cross God poured out His wrath on Him, because the One who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (II Corinthians 5:21). Because of the death of Christ, the worst Hell-bound sinner can be freely forgiven and can be transformed into a son of the Living God.

(3) The Cross of Christ has two arms. The Lord Jesus Christ not only died for our sins, but He also died for us. The one who believes in Christ died with Christ on the Cross. The Bible says, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6).

God gives us this command, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11). How can you reckon yourself to be dead if you are not dead. We are to reckon ourselves to be dead on the basis of the

fact that we were crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). When He died, we died with Him. This is what the Bible teaches, but I ask you, did you ever read anything such as this in any Watchtower literature? Of course not. Such teaching is entirely contrary to their system of salvation by works.

(4) The Bible tells us that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself (II Corinthians 5:18,19). When man sinned in the Garden of Eden, he became a rebel against God. Of his own will he chose to believe and obey Satan rather than to believe and obey God. He and all of his offspring are thus the enemies of God. The Apostle Paul says, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Romans 5:10). Since God has been reconciled to man through Christ's death, Christian believers have the ministry of reconciliation as ambassadors of Christ telling men, "We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (II Cor. 5:20).

(5) Christ died on the Cross to redeem us. To redeem means to buy back or to deliver by paying a price. With His own blood Christ redeemed us from the bondage of sin (I Peter 1:18, 19). He redeemed us from the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13). He redeemed (or delivered) us from this present evil world (Gal. 1:4).

(6) When Christ died on the Cross, He by the grace of God tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). He took the sting out of death (I Cor. 15:55). Through death He destroyed him that has the power of death, that is, the devil. Through His death He delivered them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Heb. 2:14,15).

(7) In the giving of His Son to die for the sins of men, God demonstrated and proved His love for sinful men. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Because of Christ's atoning death God can give salvation as a free gift to all who will believe on Him. "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John

3:16). "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him" (I John 4:9).

Face it honestly, my dear friend, did you ever read any of these truths concerning the death of Christ in any Watchtower literature? Of course not, because these truths would wreck their system of theology. When Jesus died on the Cross, He cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). "It is finished" is the translation of one Greek word "tetelestai" which literally means "PAID IN FULL." If a price has been paid once, can it be paid again? If I owe a note at the bank, and a friend pays the note off for me, will I have to pay the note too? Would the banker be an honorable man if he accepted the payment of my friend and made me pay too? Would Jehovah God be a holy and righteous God if He accepted the payment that Jesus made on the Cross for my sins, and then made me pay too? But, the Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to believe what the Bible reveals concerning the value of the death of Christ. They do not understand the meaning of the Grace of God, but think that salvation is a system of human works. They teach that salvation "is gained only by strenuous endeavor." They teach that you are saved by witnessing and by working for your salvation. They teach that salvation takes "much effort and unremitting vigilance." They teach that salvation is a reward; the Bible teaches that salvation is a free gift of God (Romans 6:23, Romans 5:11-21). Which way will you take? God's way or their way? You think that their way is God's way, but to prove to you that it is not, I simply ask you to study the Bible by yourself, apart from their "guided tours" through the Scripture, and you will begin to discover the truth for yourself.

At this point I wish to call to your attention that I am not trying to get you out of one religious system into another religious system. If I am trying to prove to you that the Jehovah's Witnesses are wrong in order that I might prove to you that the Seventh-Day Adventists, or the Roman Catholics, or the Southern Baptists, or Lutherans,

or United Presbyterians or some other group or denomination is right, you would have reason to question my motives. But, I am not trying to get you out of one system into another.

As a servant of the true and living God, yes, Jehovah God, I want you to see the truth as it is revealed in Christ Jesus. The Bible is truth; Jesus is truth; God is truth, but Satan is a liar and a deceiver. Satan does not want men to know the truth about God, about His Son and about His Spirit. Satan is a master at perverting the truth. I know something about many of the religions and cults in the world, but I do not know of any religious system that is more subtle than the Watchtower system. I say it as kindly as I can, but the Jehovah's Witnesses are masters of deception. Please do not be angry with me because I say this. I plead with you once again to turn from studying the Bible with their help, and begin to study the Bible asking Jehovah God to guide you into all truth. Study the Bible book by book. Start with the Book of Romans, and study it as a unit, and you will soon discover that the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses are not in harmony with the teaching of the Word of God. You will discover that they do not know the message of the Bible. All they know is their well-beaten trails through the Bible.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Chapter Ten

The Apostle Paul states the Gospel of Christ in these words: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

Thus we see that Christ's death and His resurrection are the heart of the Gospel. A careful study of the New Testament reveals that Christ's death and resurrection are linked together in dozens of passages of Scripture (Acts 1:3, 2:23,24, 3:15, 4:10, 5:30, 10:39,40, 13:29,30, 17:3, 26:23; Romans 4:25, 5:10, 6:4). Since the Christian faith rests on the two great truths of Christ's death and His resurrection, is it logical to believe that Satan, the great antagonist of the Gospel, would seek to undermine these two great truths? The Bible reveals that Satan is a liar and a deceiver. The treachery of Satan and his subtlety is seen in the manner in which he deals with these two cardinal doctrines through the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

If Jesus Christ was not raised from the dead, we are of all men most miserable (I Corinthians 15:19). If Jesus Christ was not literally and bodily raised from the dead, He was not raised at all. If He was not raised, neither will we be raised. If we will not be raised, our loved ones,

mother, father, brothers, and sisters will not be raised. This means that when the lid is closed on the casket, we will never see our loved ones again.

What do the Jehovah's Witnesses teach about the resurrection of Christ? In order that you may be perfectly clear about what they teach concerning the resurrection of Christ, I quote eight statements from five of their books. "Our Lord was put to death in flesh, but was made alive in spirit; he was put to death a man, but was raised from the dead a spirit being of the highest order of the divine nature." (STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, VOL. V, page 453). "It could not be that the man Jesus is the second Adam, the new father of the race instead of Adam; for the Man Jesus is dead, forever dead: (IBID, VOL. V, page 454). "Our Lord's human body. . .did not decay or corrupt. . .whether it was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere. . .no one knows" (IBID. VOL. II, page 129).

Pastor Russell made this statement on page 29 of THE TIME IS AT HAND, "Our Lord's human body was, however, supernaturally removed from the tomb. Whether it was dissolved into gases or whether it is still preserved somewhere as a grand memorial to God's love. . .no one knows."

On page 314 of MAKE SURE OF ALL THINGS, we read, "Jesus' Resurrection Not of Same Body: He merely Materialized Flesh and Blood to be Seen and Believed."

"In his resurrection he was no more human. He was raised as a spirit creature. . ." (THE KINGDOM IS AT HAND, page 258).

"Therefore the bodies in which Jesus manifested himself to his disciples after his return to life were not the body in which he was nailed to the tree. They were merely materialized for the occasion, resembling on one or two occasions the body in which he died. . ." (IBID. page 259).

"Jehovah God raised him from the dead, not as a human son, but as a mighty immortal spirit son. . .So the King Christ Jesus was put to death in the flesh, and was resurrected an invisible spirit creature: (LET GOD BE TRUE, page 43, 122).

"The first-born one from the dead was not raised out

of the grave a human creature, but he was raised a spirit" (IBID, page 272).

My dear friend, if you will prayerfully analyze these statements and compare them with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, you will no longer be a Jehovah's Witness. What folly to say that He was raised from the dead as a spirit being. How preposterous to suppose that Christ's body may have been dissolved into gases! Honestly, do you want to one day stand before Jehovah God as a member of a society that held this view? How dare any one presume that His body is preserved somewhere as a grand memorial, when the Bible teaches that Christ is now in His body that was raised from the dead, as a Great High Priest at the right hand of the Father?

If Jesus was not really raised from the dead, but merely materialized His body from time to time to make people think that He had been raised, is not this deception of the worst sort?

In preparing this book I was familiar with the above quotations, but I know that the Jehovah's Witnesses change their doctrines from time to time, and I wanted to have the latest word from them concerning their belief about the resurrection of Christ. I, therefore, wrote to the Watchtower Society in Brooklyn and asked them to send me a statement about what they believed concerning the resurrection of Christ. They sent me a copy of the November 15, 1960 issue of THE WATCHTOWER. On page 667 of this magazine was an article entitled, "Did Jesus Christ Really Rise from the Dead?" I read this article with amazement. With three exceptions this article was as sound as any article that would have been written by a Bible-believing preacher of the Gospel. It would be good for you to read the entire article so that you could see how cleverly they gave the impression that they really believed in the resurrection of Christ. The article closes with this paragraph:

"In view of all of the foregoing, do you have good reason for exercising faith that Jesus Christ really did rise from the dead: You most certainly do. The conclusion is inescapable. It should truly be strengthening to your faith to find one of the most unusual and most strongly disputed events mentioned in the Bible to be factual. Because

Jesus was raised from the dead you can come to God in prayer, asking forgiveness for your sins, and you can pray in faith for God's kingdom to come. And what can that mean to you? Everlasting life in a Paradise earth when there will be no more sorrow, pain or death. -- Matt. 6:10; I John 2:1; Rev. 21:4."

Frankly, I did not know what to think about this article. Perhaps the Jehovah's Witnesses had decided that after all it was the wise thing to believe in the literal resurrection of Christ. So I fired off another letter to the Watchtower Society in Brooklyn and asked them if they had changed their views on the resurrection of Christ, and here is the letter in full that I received from them:

Dear Mr. Duncan:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date in which you asked for additional information about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At Romans 6:5 it is written: "If we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection." Now, what does the Bible say regarding the resurrection of Christ's anointed followers? If you will turn to I Corinthians 15:35-44, you will see that the Bible's testimony is to the effect that such ones are resurrected as spirit persons and not as fleshly humans. At verse 44, for example, it is written: "It is sown a physical body, it is raised up a spiritual body." Then verse 45 says: "It is even so written: The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit." So it is evident that Jesus Christ was resurrected as a spirit person and not as a human. This is also clear from what is written at I Peter 3:18.

As a spirit person, Jesus was able to materialize human bodies at will as angels had done in ancient times. (Judges 13:1-20). To Mary Magdalene Jesus appeared as a gardener, and she did not recognize him until he spoke to her (John 20:15-17). On another occasion he appeared to two disciples who were walking to Emmaus, and they did not recognize him until he took a loaf and blessed it and then he vanished before their eyes (Luke 24:13-31). On still another occasion he appeared to his disciples with the body that resembled

the one that was hung on the stake. This time he suddenly appeared in their midst, although the doors were locked (John 20:19, 20). And on still another occasion he appeared to his disciples when they were fishing and he was standing on the shore. By the miracle he performed they knew that it was Jesus, but when they got to the shore and saw him they did not recognize him from his physical appearance as Jesus. This is evident from what is written at John 21:12.

Because Jesus was raised as a spirit person, he was able to ascend into the heavens with the value of his ransom sacrifice. As a fleshly person he could not have done this, as we can see from what is written at I Corinthians 15:50.

So Jehovah's Witnesses believe today, as they have believed in the past, the Bible's testimony to the fact that Jesus Christ was resurrected as a spirit person and not as a fleshly human.

We hope this information proves helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Watchtower B. & T. Society

The arguments that are presented in this letter would likely carry some weight with people who do not know what the Bible really has to say about the resurrection of Christ, but the arguments that are given here, and the arguments that are presented in the Watchtower literature have no meaning to people who know and believe the Book.

Let us examine these arguments with an open Bible. Instead of jumping to some conclusions as to what the Apostle Paul may have meant when he said, "there is a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:44), and what he meant when he said, "the last Adam was made a quickening spirit" (v. 45), let us go back and examine the Gospel accounts and see what kind of a body Jesus actually had when He was raised from the dead. Keep in mind, in this case, we are not seeking to determine whether or not Jesus was raised from the dead, but what kind of a body He had when He was raised. Was He merely raised as a spirit, or was He raised with a literal physical body? Think this one through - - "How could a spirit be raised from the dead?" How would any one know that it was raised? What form

would it have?

In the first place we know that Jesus' resurrection was physical because He, Himself, said that it would be. "Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shonest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had said" (John 2:18-22). In all of the tons of literature that the Watchtower Society has published they have never been able to answer this Scripture. It is a damning indictment against them. If they claim that Jesus was merely raised as a spirit, what happened to his body? Not even the enemies of Christ made the claim that they found His body. If the enemies of Christ had been able to produce the body of Christ when the disciples were preaching and proclaiming that Jesus had been raised from the dead, they could have with one stroke forever silenced the Gospel. But they were not able to do this. Satan and all the host in Hell could not produce the dead body of Jesus to prove that He had not been raised from the dead, for the simple reason that Jesus' body, the same body that was conceived in the womb of the virgin, the same body that walked the shores of Galilee, the same body that hung on the Cross, and the same body that was tenderly laid in the tomb, was the same body that was literally and physically raised from the dead.

If this is not true, every one who takes the name of Christ is the biggest fool on the face of the earth (I Corinthians 15:19). Dozens of splendid books have been written that proved beyond any shadow of doubt the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Christ, and it is not our purpose to repeat the evidence in this chapter. If you want to read such books I recommend: DID JESUS RISE? by Dr. James H. Brooks, WHO MOVED THE STONE? by Frank Morrison, and MAN ALIVE! by Michael Green.

Our purpose at this point is to show that the Bible clearly teaches the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Christ. If you will read and believe the 24th chapter of Luke you will be convinced that Jesus was raised in this way. However, if you do not choose to do this, but choose to follow the Jehovah's Witnesses method of twisting a few proof texts, you will continue to be a slave to their Satanic system. And you will continue to believe as they do that only Christ's breath or mental disposition was raised from the dead! This is the height of absurdity.

Yes, prayerfully read all of Luke 24. Walk with Jesus and the two disciples on the Emmaus road. If Jesus did not really have a body, but was nothing more than a spirit with the manifestations of a body, was He not deceiving these disciples by making them think that He had been literally raised from the dead? How was He made known to them? In the breaking of the bread. They recognized Him, and returned immediately to Jerusalem and while they were trying to catch their breath after having run about seven miles, the other disciples said to them, "The Lord is risen indeed!" Then these two disciples told how Christ had revealed Himself to them in the breaking of the bread in their home.

"And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them. And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures" (Luke 24:36-45).

These verses blast the Jehovah's Witnesses theory to smithereens! Jesus is omniscient, He knows all things. He knew that false prophets would arise who would teach that He was nothing more than a spirit. He, therefore, made it absolutely sure that they would know that He was not a spirit. At first the disciples were terrified and supposed that they had seen a spirit. At first they could not really believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead, but to prove to them that He had been raised, and that He was not a spirit, He invited them to handle Him. Can you handle a spirit? What would a spirit feel like? But even more than this Jesus ate some broiled fish and a piece of honeycomb to prove that He was not a spirit. This disproves the false Jehovah's Witnesses theory.

But this is not all. In the 20th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus appeared to all of the disciples when Thomas was not present with them. The disciples told Thomas about this appearance, but Thomas said something like this, "You fellows are just excited. You just imagined that you saw the Lord. You can't make me believe stuff like that. I will not believe that He has been raised from the dead unless I can see the nail prints in his hands. In fact, I want to thrust my hand into the spear wound in his side."

Eight days later Jesus appeared to the disciples again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus spoke to all of the disciples and said, "Peace be unto you." Then he turned to Thomas and said, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing." Then Thomas answered and said, "My Lord and my God." Did Thomas believe in the physical, bodily resurrection of Christ, or did he think that Jesus was "a spirit person"?

When Stephen was stoned to death he saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He said, "I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). Can you see a spirit? If Jesus was just a spirit, how could Stephen see Him? The Apostle Paul tells us, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." What does this mean? If Jesus is just a spirit person, why does the Holy

Spirit call Him a man? Is a man merely a spirit, or is man more than a spirit?

When the Apostle John was on the Isle of Patmos he heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him. John describes for us what he saw when he turned to see the voice that spake to him: "I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last; I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelation 1:13-18).

What did John see? "A spirit person?" Does a spirit have hands, feet, eyes and hair? This description reveals to us what the glorified Christ looks like. We will study more about the glorified body of Christ in our next chapter on the Second Coming of Christ, but now let us go back to the two passages, (I Corinthians 15:35-50; I Peter 3:18), that the Jehovah's Witnesses use to prove that Jesus was not raised from the dead with a literal, physical body, but that He was raised from the dead as "a spirit person."

The Watchtower writers quote I Corinthians 15:44, "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." There is no problem here. This verse means exactly what it says. All people, both lost and saved have a natural body. It is the body that we were born with, and the body (house, tabernacle) that we live in during our earthly pilgrimage. But since our present body is mortal (subject to death) and corruptible (it returns to dust) it cannot go to heaven in its present form. It must be changed (I Corinthians 15:51; Philippians 3:21; I John 3:1-3). In the resurrection, our bodies will be made like the resurrected

body of Christ. This is what is meant by a spiritual body. It has nothing to do whatever in proving that Jesus was raised as "a spirit person."

The same writers quote I Corinthians 15:45, "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." The margin and most modern versions (including the NWT) read, "a life giving spirit." Christ is a life giving spirit, but dozens of other Scripture references about Him show that He is more than a spirit. II Corinthians 3:17 tells us, "The Lord is that Spirit." I like the way that Major Ian Thomas expresses this thought. He says that the Holy Spirit is the other self of Jesus. Hundreds of titles are given to the Lord Jesus in the Bible. It would be folly to try to limit Him on any one of these titles. For example He is called our great High Priest. Yes, He is that, but He is more than that. He is called, "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." He is that, but He is more than that. He is called the "Good Shepherd." He is that, but He is more than that. And we could cite hundreds of other examples. Yes, Jesus is "a life giving spirit," but He is more than that.

At this point, I cannot resist calling to your attention that the gracious gentlemen who wrote me the letter from Brooklyn recognizes that Jesus is "the last Adam," and he says that Christ became a life-giving spirit. Now, if you will refer back to the statement made by Pastor Russell quoted in the first part of this chapter, you will see a contradiction. Pastor Russell wrote, "It could not be that the man Jesus is the second Adam, the new father of the race instead of Adam; for the Man Jesus is dead, forever dead."

Then they quote I Corinthians 15:50, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Bible-believing Christians have no problem with this verse. The words "flesh and blood" are used in this way four times in the New Testament: (1) In the verse above, (2) Jesus said to Peter, "for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee" (Matthew 16:17), (3) "We wrestle not against flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12), (4) "I conferred not with flesh and blood" (Galatians 1:16). Each of these

references shows that the expression "flesh and blood" simply means the natural man. We are agreed that the natural man cannot inherit the kingdom of God. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." Bible scholars commonly believe that Jesus' resurrected body did not have blood, and that therefore the glorified bodies of the saints will not have blood.

The kind gentlemen who wrote me the letter from the Watchtower Society states that I Peter 3:18 makes clear that Jesus was resurrected as a spirit person. And, evidently there are some people who are gullible enough to believe this just because he says so, but let us look at the verse for ourselves and see what it really says, and I will be nice enough to quote it from the NWT. "Why, even Christ died once for all time concerning sins, a righteous (person) for unrighteous ones, that he might lead YOU to God, he being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive in the spirit." If this verse means, as they say that it does, that Jesus was raised as "a spirit person," then all of the Christians at Rome were also "spirit persons" because the Apostle Paul wrote to them, "Ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit" (Romans 8:9). And, the Apostle John was nothing more than a "spirit person" because he wrote "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). No, this verse means exactly what it says, and what is corroborated in other places—Jesus was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit, and there is no suggestion whatever that He was raised as "a spirit person." The Apostle Paul makes this clear for us in Romans 8:11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Jehovah's Witnesses make much of the fact that, after Jesus was raised from the dead, on three occasions those who saw Him failed to recognize Him. Those three occasions were: (1) Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-16), (2) the disciples on the Emmaus road (Luke 24:16), (3) the disciples by Galilee (John 21:4). Such thinking is a good example of "Much Ado About Nothing." How on earth does it prove that Jesus was raised as "a spirit person" because

He was not recognized on three occasions? A study of each of these passages reveals why He was not recognized. I wonder why the Jehovah's Witnesses writers do not call to your attention that He was joyfully and gladly recognized by hundreds of people after His resurrection (I Corinthians 15:4-8).

Now, my dear friend, the problem that faces you is this: Will you believe what the Word of God says about the resurrection of Christ, or will you accept what the Watchtower says? You cannot believe both because they do not teach the same things. Will you accept the evidence that Christ was raised literally, physically and bodily as we have presented this truth to you from John 2:18-22, 20:1-31; and Luke 24:1-53, or will you accept their misinterpretation of I Corinthians 15:44-50 and I Peter 3:18 that Christ was raised as "a spirit person"?

My dear friend, this is a solemn issue that you face. The decision that you make is one that will determine your eternal destiny. Therefore, you had better carefully weigh the evidence as it is found in the eternal Word of the only true and living God. I exhort you once again to study the Bible for yourself, apart from literature of the Watchtower Society. How can you possibly go wrong doing this? The Bible is the Truth of God. The Bible is the standard by which we can determine what is right and what is wrong, what is truth and what is error. Satan is a liar and a deceiver. Can you not see how that any religious system, whether it be the Roman Catholic Church, Seventh Day Adventists, the Christian Scientists or the Jehovah's Witnesses that tries to make you believe that they are the divinely appointed channel through which God reveals Himself, is bound to be wrong? God is too big and too great to limit the knowledge of Himself to any human organization. And, what folly to think that He would do this through the Watchtower Society which was not started until 1879 and which did not begin to use the name "Jehovah's Witnesses" until 1931.

Do you honestly believe that the great Jehovah God left Himself without a witness on the earth for nearly two thousand years? In a later chapter I am going to show you that the Watchtower Society has changed its doctrines

hundreds of times. Truth does not change. This system has not given you peace with God, for peace only comes to those who are justified by faith (Romans 5:1). It has not given you the peace of God because the peace of God comes only to those who are rightly related to Christ (Philippians 4:7, 8). You can not be rightly related to Christ when you believe that He is a creature of God, and that He is a lesser deity. This system has not given you the assurance of your salvation, because you can never be sure of your salvation when you believe in salvation by works, because you never know when you have worked enough. This system has not led you into the glorious liberty of the sons of God (Romans 8:21), but has brought you into a bondage that has caused you to believe that the Jehovah's Witnesses are the only ones who are right, and into a slavery that makes you believe that you must strive, work hard, and witness faithfully in order to be saved. The Bible does not teach this!

O, my friend, turn to Christ as the one who loved you and who gave Himself for you. He is the one who saves you. He is the one who wants to live His life through you. Christian service is letting Christ work through you. If you will study the Bible, you will discover that these statements are true.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Chapter Eleven

What was to have been chapter eleven of this book grew to such length that we decided to publish it as a 62 page booklet entitled DID JESUS CHRIST RETURN IN 1914? In this booklet we quote extensively from Watchtower books and magazines presenting their reasons for believing that Christ returned in 1914. Their argument, going back to Pastor Russell, is largely based on the reasoning that the Greek word "parousia" should be translated "presence" and not "coming" as it is translated in most instances in the King James Version of the Bible.

If the major premise of any argument is wrong, all of the corollaries that are based on that premise will be wrong. In chapter ten of this book we have shown that the Watchtower writers deny the physical, literal resurrection of Jesus Christ. It follows naturally that they would also deny the physical, literal, visible return of Christ to rule and reign on the earth.

In our booklet DID JESUS CHRIST RETURN IN 1914? we not only examine the one Greek word "parousia," but we also examine five other Greek words that are used in connection with the Second Coming of Christ.

It is tragic for any person to be lost. It is a terrible thing to be deceived and to be led astray by Satan, but the sad thing about the Jehovah's Witnesses is that their doctrine concerning the Second Coming of Christ is leading them into the very thing from which they wish to escape: Armageddon! This is not an idle charge. Write to us and ask us to send you a free copy of DID JESUS CHRIST RETURN IN 1914.

THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL

Chapter Twelve

Judge Rutherford was right when he taught that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul and the doctrine of Hell were inseparably related. However, he was wrong in the way that he stated it. He said, "The two doctrines or teachings of the inherent immortality and eternal torture must stand or fall together, and since they are both false, they must both fall." God never has, or never will, torture any one. The Bible never uses this terminology. But you may ask, "If men go to Hell, is not this God torturing them?" Certainly not! Let me illustrate the truth in this way. Suppose that I am a blacksmith and my small boy likes to play in my shop. Many times I warn him to stay away from the fire, and not to touch hot metal. But suppose that he willfully disobeys me and touches a piece of hot iron. Will he suffer for doing this? Certainly. However, he will not suffer because I am torturing him, but he will suffer because he has violated a law of nature.

Our loving heavenly Father does all that He can do in righteousness to keep men from going to Hell. He tells men of the consequences of sin; He warns them of impending judgment; He even gave His son that all might be saved through Him. He is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9), but when men refuse the Word of God, they must suffer the consequences of their sin.

In order that you may understand what the Watchtower Society teaches about the soul, I am quoting extensively from two of their books. In 1921 Judge Rutherford wrote in the HARP OF GOD, "Every man is a soul. No man has a soul. Is it true that the soul of man is immortal;

and if so, how could God put it to death? . . . To understand whether or not a soul is immortal, it is first essential that we determine from the Bible what constitutes a soul (Genesis 2:7). The word soul is synonymous with the words being, creature, and man. Every creature that breathes is a soul. God applied the words living soul to the lower order of animals long before man creation (Genesis 1:20, margin).

"The thought of immortal soul originated with Satan, the devil. If man possessed an immortal soul it could not be put to death.

"Another of Satan's deceptions by which he has blinded the people is the teaching that the dead are still conscious after death. This is not supported by the Bible, however. Those who die are never again conscious unless they are resurrected by the Lord; if the soul were immortal it would be conscious somewhere. Let's observe the Scriptures which show that the dead are not conscious (Psalms 6:5; Psalms 115:17; Psalms 104:29; Psalms 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5,6; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalms 49:12).

"We must conclude from these Scriptures that the dead are wholly unconscious from the moment of death until such future time as the Lord may please to waken them and give them an opportunity of life, which he purposes to do.

"Furthermore, there could be no eternal torment of the soul unless soul were immortal, indestructible; and the Scriptures above cited and all other Scriptures bearing upon the subject show that man is not immortal."

THINGS IN WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE was published by the Watchtower Society in 1965. I am quoting from chapter five of this book, and you will notice that these quotations are almost an exact re-run of what Judge Rutherford wrote 44 years earlier.

"Your soul - - is it really you? Does the Holy Bible say that it is you? In Psalm 121:7 the true worshiper of God is given this comforting promise: 'Jehovah himself will guard you against all calamity. He will guard your soul.' Just what is meant by that word 'soul'? We, of course, want the Bible's answer, because the inspired Bible is the truth of God the Creator.

"In the very last book of the Bible we read: 'A third

of the creatures that are in the sea which have souls died. . . . And the second (angel) poured out his bowl into the sea. And it became blood as of a dead man, and every living soul (psykhe) died, yes, the things in the sea.' - - Revelation 8:9, 16:3.

"What was the 'living soul' that there came into existence? It was not the 'breath of life' that Jehovah God blew into the nostrils of the human body that He had formed from the dust of the ground. The 'living soul' was the man himself. The Christian apostle Paul emphasizes that fact when he writes in I Corinthians 15:45: 'The first man Adam became a living soul (psykhe).' Adam, our first human father, was a 'living soul.' He did not have some shadowy, invisible, weightless, infeelable thing inside him that could escape from his body when he died and that could go on existing as a 'living soul' in a spiritual realm that was just as invisible as the human 'living soul:' was visible to eyes on earth, to the eyes of the lower animal creatures."

"In the light of the Bible's teaching, it is plain that much confusion has existed in people's minds regarding what the human soul is. All this goes to show that the 'living soul' is not something implanted invisibly inside the human body but is the human person himself. Consequently, when God's Word uses the expression 'your soul,' it means you yourself, your very being, your life as a human soul.

"How then, did the human soul come into existence? By God's creating the human body from the dust of the ground and combining with it 'the breath of life.' This means that the human soul is maintained by breathing the needed air through the nostrils. It does not mean that the human creature, man, is maintained alive by having inside himself an invisible, spiritual, intelligent something called 'soul' that can separate from the body at death and that can continue its intelligent, conscious existence in an invisible, spiritual realm, either with angels or with demons."

"IS OUR SOUL DEATHLESS, IMPERISHABLE?"

"The reasonable question now comes up, if the human

soul is brought into existence by God's combining the human body made from all the elements of the earth with the breath of life, what happens when the breath of life is separated from the human body? The creator's written Word answers that question also. It says that the human soul dies, ceases to exist. Where does it say so?

"In Leviticus 23:30 God says: 'As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people.' In Numbers 31:19 God says to Israelite soldiers: 'Everyone who has killed a soul and everyone who has touched someone slain, you should purify yourselves.'

"Since the human soul does not have immortality and incorruption but dies with the body, some religionist might ask in indignation, "Does this mean that we humans die like animals?" Nothing could answer that question better than God's own inspired Word. In Ecclesiastes 3:19-21 it says: 'There is an eventuality as respects the sons of mankind and eventuality as respects the beast, and they have the same eventuality. As the one dies, and they all have but one spirit, so that there is not superiority of the man over the beast, for everything is vanity. All are going to one place. They have all come to be from the dust, and they are all returning to the dust.'

"At death the human soul does not return to God, for it was never with God. The human soul is the man himself, and man was never in heaven with God. Where man returns at death is to the dust from which his body was made; his nostrils stop breathing the 'breath (neshamah) of life.'

"So, then, under present circumstances you as a mortal human soul are facing death. Your only hope for a future after that depends, not on any imagined immortality of your soul, but on God's provisions to 'create' you anew, for your 'soul' is you!"

The above words seem to prove conclusively three things: (1) That man is a soul, (2) that he does not have a soul, and therefore, (3) it is false to teach that the soul of man is immortal (not subject to death).

Actually these words demonstrate the uncanny ability of the Watchtower writers to make a lie sound like the truth. They do this by following their usual method of Bible

study of stating a doctrine, and then of finding proof-texts to substantiate that doctrine. Part of what they say is true, but I will demonstrate to you that they failed to give all of the truth that the Bible reveals about the soul of man. Before we examine in detail some of the false statements that they have made, let us take time to get clearly in our minds some of the basic truth that is revealed in the Word about the word "soul." This word is found in the King James Version approximately 600 times. It is translated as "soul" 428 times from the Hebrew word "nephesh." Nephesh is translated "life" 119 times, and is also translated by 25 other English words. The Greek word "psuche" is translated "soul" 58 times in the New Testament; it is translated "life" 40 times; "mind" three times, and "heart" once.

The Bible clearly teaches that man is spirit, and soul, and body. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Thessalonians 5:23). This one verse devastates the Jehovah's Witnesses position that man is a soul and that he does not have a soul. In order to explain away what this verse really teaches, the Watchtower writers say that it applies to the congregation of believers rather than to the individual Christian! They are like a drowning man grasping at a straw. This verse teaches that man is spirit, soul, and body. The writer of the book of Hebrews shows that the soul and spirit are distinct. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

God formed man's body out of the dust of the earth, then, He breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). It was the breath of life from God that made man different from the animal creation. God also formed the spirit of man within him (Zechariah 12:1). The body is the least important part of man. It is merely the house we live in. When you look at me, you do not really see me, but you see the house that I live in. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy

Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). Peter calls his body a tabernacle or tent (II Peter 1:14). The word "flesh" is used several ways in the Bible. Some times it refers to the meat on our bones, but when used in a theological sense it refers to all that we are by nature.

The soul of man has three parts: mind, emotions, and will. These three things are not tangible and physical, but they are nonetheless real. They are the real part of us. What folly to say that man is just a body like animals. We will examine the Watchtower proof-text on this subject later. The mind is more than the human brain. It is something like a calculating machine. If a calculating machine is to come up with the right answers, the right information must be fed into it. So it is with the mind. The discussion that we are now having is an illustration of this. You believe one thing: I believe another thing. Why do you believe what you believe, and why do I believe what I believe? You believe what you believe because you have studied the Bible with the help of the Watchtower books and literature. I believe what I believe because I have studied the Bible without the help of the Watchtower literature.

Every one of us has emotions, and these emotions are just as real as the bones in our body. Perhaps you have experienced anger as you have read this book. You have love for your family. You have joy and sorrow. What is the seat of your emotions? Are they just a part of your body? You know better than this. And, what about the will? The mind and emotions are the vice-presidents of the corporation. The will is the president. The will makes the decisions. Life is made up of hundreds of choices. The decisions that we make determine our destiny. God made us free-moral agents so that we could choose to love Him, or choose not to love Him. We must have this freedom of choice if we are to love God.

It is absolutely true that the Jehovah's Witnesses can quote dozens of references to show that the soul refers to the whole man. Some of these references are: Genesis 17:14, 19:20, 46:18,22,27; Exodus 1:5, 31:14; Leviticus 4:2; Acts 2:41,43, 3:23, 7:14, 27:37; Romans 13:1; I Peter 3:20; and Revelation 16:3. These are just a few of the

many references that can be cited to show that the word "soul" refers to the entire man.

However, the word "soul" does not only refer to the entire man, but it also refers to the mind, the emotions, and the will which dwell within the body of man.

Let me remind you of what the Watchtower writers have said, "Adam, our first human father, was a 'living soul.' He did not have some shadowy, invisible, weightless, unfeeling thing inside him that could escape from his body when he died and that could go on existing as a 'living soul' in a spiritual realm that was just as invisible as the human soul is thought to be" (page 140 of THINGS IN WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE). Then on the bottom of page 141 of this same book we read, "All this goes to show that the 'living soul' is not something implanted inside the human body but is the human person himself."

It should be perfectly clear to us what the Watchtower Society teaches on this subject. Now I invite you to look with me at several verses of Scripture that they did not quote. In his affliction Job said, "But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and HIS SOUL WITHIN HIM shall mourn" (Job 14:22). Notice two things about the verse: (1) Job makes a distinction between the flesh and the soul, and (2) he says that his soul is within him.

When the great woman of Shunem came to Elisha, "She caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone, for HER SOUL IS VEXED WITHIN HER" (2 Kings 4:27). Will you receive the testimony of Job and of Elisha that the soul is within, or will you accept the words of the unknown writers of the Watchtower literature? Keep in mind that this is an issue that you must face one day at the judgment bar of God.

These given above are just two of many verses that we can quote. Let us look at a few more. David said, "When I remember these things, I pour out MY SOUL IN ME" (Psalms 42:4). "Why art thou cast down O my soul? and why art thou disquieted WITHIN ME?" (Psalms 43:5). "O my God, my soul is cast down WITHIN ME" (Psalms 42:6).

It is very interesting to notice that the Watchtower writers overlooked these important verses stating that the soul of man is within him. They can do this with perfect impunity because they have brainwashed the members of their society into believing that the Watchtower Society is the divinely appointed depository for the truth of God. They do not have to be concerned that any one (except a few daring souls) will discover what the Bible really teaches on any given subject or doctrine, because they safely guide their followers through the Scriptures following the guided tour that makes every thing come out exactly as their books teach. What folly! What delusion! When Christians fall into traps such as this one, it is because they have failed to put on the whole armor of God that they may stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-20).

Using their method of "Bible study," they can prove that the moon is made of green cheese. I thought about giving you a demonstration of how they would do it, but then I decided that I should not waste the paper and ink. Instead of blindly following what these deceivers have to say, let me encourage you to get a concordance and study every reference in the Bible where the word "soul" is used. It will not take you long to discover the subtlety with which you have been deceived. Instead of studying your Bible with "the guided tour method" (Jehovah's Witnesses or other) begin to study the Bible in a systematic method, book by book and chapter by chapter. If you will do this depending on the Holy Spirit, He will guide you into all truth (John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:9-14).

One little, overlooked word wrecks the Watchtower position concerning the soul of man. It is the word "heart." If you will take a concordance, and study each reference where the word "heart" is used in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, you will learn several things. You will discover that "heart" is used in two ways in the Bible: (1) the physical organ that pumps the blood to our body, and (2) of the inner part of the man that is distinct from the body. The first reference to "heart" in the Bible is Genesis 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that the imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." "Jacob's

heart fainted" (Genesis 45:26). Pharaoh hardened his heart (Exodus 8:15). The heart of the children of Israel was discouraged (Numbers 32:9). "God gave him (Saul) another heart" (I Samuel 10:9). "Thou hast put gladness in my heart" (Psalms 4:7). "Let the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight" (Psalms 19:14). "Keep thy heart with all diligence" (Proverbs 4:23). "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" (Matthew 22:37). "For from WITHIN out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts," (Mark 7:21). "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1). "Why hath Satan filled thy heart to lie?" (Acts 5:3). "Whose heart the Lord opened" (Acts 16:14). "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness" (Romans 10:10).

These are just a few of the many Scriptures that can be cited to show that man is more than a physical body like animals. When we study the Bible and compare what it teaches about soul, spirit, mind, and heart, it is plain that the "heart" refers to the inner man, and that in most instances it refers to the soul and the spirit together. Keep in mind that we must make a distinction between the spirit of man which is in him and the Spirit of God who is only in born-again believers.

Judge Rutherford wrote in the HARP OF GOD, "Another of Satan's deceptions by which he has blinded the people is the teaching that the dead are still conscious after death. . . . Lets observe the Scriptures which show that the dead are not conscious (Psalms 6:5; Psalms 115:17; Psalms 104:29; Psalms 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5,6; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalms 49:12)."

When you read these references without thinking, you will come to the conclusion that the Watchtower writers have proved their point, but such is not the case. Here are three points that I ask you to consider. (1) The Watchtower writers, themselves, do not want you to believe what Judge Rutherford is teaching. Go back to chapter 10 of this book, and read what the Watchtower writers have to say about the resurrection of the dead. They teach that the dead will be raised. On the surface, these Scriptures seem to teach that death ends all, that man is just an animal who dies.

(2) All of these verses were written from the human viewpoint. From the human standpoint there is no remembrance of God in the grave. From the human standpoint man is like the beast that perishes. Bible doctrine can never be based on the book of Ecclesiastes. In this book we have the highest reasonings and conclusions of the natural man. Humanly speaking the dead do not know anything, and there is no knowledge in the grave. How do I know that this position is correct? Because of the next point.

(3) Many Scriptures scattered throughout the Bible teach that death does not end all, and that man is conscious either in Heaven or in Hell before the resurrection of the body. With your heart and mind open to the truth of God, I invite you to study some of these Scriptures with me.

"Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord from henceforth: yes, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13). "Blessed" in everyday language means happy. It is happiness in the fullest sense, unhindered by the cares and anxieties of this life. It is the supreme joy, blessed indeed, that only the God of infinite love could provide for the objects of His affection. "Happy are the dead which die in the Lord." Those left in mourning are not happy. God makes no such promise to them. However, He does comfort the hearts of those who are left behind with the assurance that their departed loved ones are happy in the Lord. This is a blessed thought.

The Bible teaches that when a Christian dies he is "absent from the body, and present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8). If Christians are unconscious at death, how can they be present with the Lord? The Apostle Paul said that for the Christians "to die is to gain." What would a Christian gain if he becomes unconscious at death? Paul said to depart and be with Christ is far better (Philippians 1:23). Come now! Be honest, how could dying and becoming unconscious be better (in most cases) than living and enjoying our families and loved ones? But, to be alive and living in the presence of the Lord is far better than anything this world can offer.

Jesus taught that the wicked go to Hell immediately when

they die, and that they are in conscious torment. "The rich man died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments" (Luke 16:22,23). We will discuss this more in detail in the next chapter.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration and spake with him of his decease (Luke 9:30). Both of these men had been physically dead for centuries. If these men were unconscious, how could they talk to Jesus? Here again the Watchtower writers have to pervert the Scriptures to fit their doctrine. They say that this event was just a vision and not an actual occurrence.

"I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth" (Revelation 6:9,10). If the dead are unconscious, how can they cry out with loud voices?

Rutherford said that the dead are unconscious until such a future time as the Lord may wake them out of death and give them an opportunity of life, which he purposes to do. There is not one Scripture in the Bible that teaches a second chance.

On page 149 of THINGS IN WHICH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE we read, "At death the human soul does not return to God, for it never was with God," but Genesis 2:7 says that God breathed into the dead dust that was man's body, and man became a living soul.

There is one other thing that we must mention before we close this chapter. The Jehovah's Witnesses do not want to believe in Hell. However, they do want to be able to promise their followers that if they will work hard, witness faithfully, be baptized, and hold out faithful to the end, they will have everlasting life. But how can any one have everlasting life if the soul is mortal, and if it dies when the man dies? The Jehovah's Witnesses take care of this provision by manufacturing a new doctrine that their followers are created anew, and they therefore have everlasting life.

The Bible teaches us that the human heart is deceitful

above all things, and that it is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). The heart of the natural man revolts against what the Bible has to say about Hell, and about judgment. Satan is a liar and a deceiver (Revelation 12:9), and he does not want men to believe any of the truths of God. He knows that he is going to Hell, and wants to drag as many as possible to Hell with him. He does this by making men think that Hell does not exist. The doctrine of Hell is obnoxious to the thinking of the natural man. Wicked, ungodly men enjoy living like animals. Wicked men do not always fear death, but they fear the judgment that is after death (Hebrews 9:27). Men do not want to believe that they have an immortal soul, because they cannot bear the awful thought of an immortal soul spending eternity in Hell. In the next chapter we will examine what the Bible teaches about Hell.

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT HELL

Chapter Thirteen

I have just finished reading chapter VIII in the book **LET GOD BE TRUE** that is published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of Brooklyn, New York. The title of this chapter is "Hell, a Place of Rest in Hope." Satan is very subtle, and I must confess that in some respects the man who wrote this chapter is very subtle.

In summarizing his chapter he states, "The doctrine of a burning hell where the wicked are tortured eternally after death cannot be true, mainly for four reasons: (1) it is wholly unscriptural; (2) it is unreasonable; (3) it is contrary to God's love, and (4) it is repugnant to justice."

It is to be regretted that many people will accept these categorical statements without analyzing them, but we invite you to analyze these statements with us. We will start with point number two and discuss the first point last since we will be devoting more space to it.

The writer states that the doctrine of Hell is unreasonable. The Bible says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). The doctrine of Hell is unreasonable to the natural, unconverted man, but when we begin to realize that sin must be punished, God would not be holy and just if He let sin go unpunished. Since God is holy, sin must be punished in the person of the sinner, or in the Person of the sinner's substitute, the Lord Jesus Christ. When we belittle the penalty that must be paid for sin, we belittle the price that Christ paid for us at Calvary's Cross. I do not suppose that any man believes in Hell because he simply

wants to, but He believes in Hell because he is compelled to if he is to believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

The writer states (no one knows who is the writer of this book) that Hell is contrary to God's love. All who speak thus fail to recognize the holiness of God and the necessity for sin to be punished because of the holiness of God. God is love, and love is of God (I John 4:7,8). God loved and loves the whole world (John 3:16). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). But God does not save men against their will. If men are to be saved, they must hear and believe the Gospel. They must repent of their sins; they must receive Christ as Savior and Lord. When men harden their hearts, when they refuse to come to Christ, when they reject the free offer of God's saving grace, they must accept the consequence of their sin. The Bible says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7, 8).

Let us dwell on this thought a bit further, and look at the example of two men. One man is the very incarnation of evil. He is guilty of every crime in the catalogue. He glories in his sin and shame. He is filthy, vile, and degraded. He is guilty of drunkenness and of every vile sex sin. He is a sadist and a murderer. He hates God; he hates Christ, the Son of God; he blasphemes the Spirit of God; he despises the Word of God. Now if some of our readers do not realize that there are such men in the world, they have not been around very much. They have lived sheltered lives.

What about a man like this? What about a Hitler who ordered the extermination of six million Jews? Would God be holy if He were to let sin go unpunished? Those who belittle the awfulness of sin have never been to Calvary. They have never heard the awful cry from the Cross, "My God, My God, Why has thou forsaken me?" Yes, God not only forsook His Son, but He poured out His wrath on His Son, because He (Christ) was made sin for

us at Calvary.

Take the case of another man. To begin with he may have been as evil as the first man that we have described, but when he heard the Gospel he responded to it. Instead of rejecting Christ, he received Him. Instead of despising the Word of God, he loves to meditate on its precepts. He has compassion for the souls of men. Instead of living for this world, he lives for God and seeks to please Him. He lives with eternity's values in view.

God loves both of these men. Christ died for the sins of both of these men, but the first man rejects Christ while the other receives Him. Would God be holy and just to treat both of these men the same way? Even the Jehovah's Witnesses do not teach that He does this.

The fourth statement that the writer of LET GOD BE TRUE makes is that the doctrine of a burning hell is repugnant to justice. Alas! How ignorant this man is of the meaning of justice. If all of us got justice, every one of us would receive the condemnation that is our lot (John 3:18). We deserve justice, but God in grace, because of the merits of His Son, gives us mercy. The central passage in the Bible on the justice of God is Romans 3:26: "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

I state it reverently when I say, God's problem was this: "How could He be just and righteous and at the same time save and justify ungodly men?" God cannot and does not save men simply because of His love for them; if He did, He would not be just and righteous.

Let me illustrate it in this way. A young man charged with a heinous crime is brought before a judge in one of our courts. The judge has known this young man since he was a small boy and is a good friend of the young man's family. Suppose that the judge were to say something like this, "My boy, I have known you all of your life. Your father is one of my best friends, and because of my great love for you I dismiss the charges that are made against you." Would the judge be just if he were to do this? Of course not! What about those who had been wronged by the deeds of this young man? Would they receive justice? Assuredly not!

How then can a Holy God justify sinners and continue to be just and honorable. God did this by giving His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross in the sinners' stead and place. Because of the atoning death of Christ, God is free to justify the vilest sinner on the face of the earth. And He justifies every sinner on exactly the same basis—on the basis of pure grace, entirely apart from any human merit. We imagine that God saves wicked people one way and so-called good people another way, but nothing could be further from the truth. All must be saved in exactly the same way through the merits of Christ. God loves all men, but only those who come to Him will be saved.

Now we come to the first charge that the doctrine of a burning hell is wholly unscriptural. I invite the reader to judge whether or not his statement can be substantiated. Before we consider the subtle (and yet not too subtle) way in which the Jehovah's Witnesses explain away what the Bible teaches about hell, we invite you to read some of the references in the Bible where the doctrine of hell is taught.

"For a fire is kindled in my anger, and shall burn to the lowest hell" (Deut. 32:22). "Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering" (Job 26:6). "Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell" (Psalms 55:15). "Hell and destruction are never full" (Prov. 27:20). "Hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure" (Isaiah 5:14). Ezekiel said, "The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell" (Ezek. 32:21). "Though they dig into hell, thence shall my hand take them; though they climb up into heaven, thence will I bring them down" (Amos 9:2). "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Peter 2:4).

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a

loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive the mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name" (Revelation 14:9-11).

The Lord Jesus Christ taught more about Hell than all other writers of the Bible put together. He told the city of Capernaum that because of its sin, it would be brought down to Hell (Matt. 11:23). He said, "If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:47,48). He called the Pharisees a generation of vipers and said, "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33). He said, "The rich man died and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes being in torments" (Luke 16:22,23). In the day of judgment, Christ will say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels—and these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:41,46).

In view of the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ concerning Hell, we are faced with four alternatives: (1) that He was sincere, but mistaken in what He believed about Hell; (2) that He was a deceiver and an imposter seeking to gain followers by putting the fear of Hell into their hearts; (3) that in the teachings about Hell He did not intend for us to interpret His teachings in a literal sense, but in a spiritual sense; or (4) that Christ meant what He said, and that He said what He meant when He taught about Hell. Only unbelievers can accept either of the first two alternatives.

In making the decision as to which of the last alternatives is correct, the student of the Scriptures must consider three things: (1) that the tone of Christ's teaching strongly indicates that Hell is a literal place; (2) that in deciding

whether or not Hell is a literal place, he must not only consider the love of God but also the holiness of God. (God would not be holy and just if He did not punish sin); and (3) that the severity of the punishment indicates the seriousness of the consequences of sin.

The word Hell is found fifty-four times in the King James Version of the Bible. Thirty-one times it is a translation of the Hebrew word "sheol"; ten times of the Greek word "hades"; twelve times of the Greek word "gehenna"; and once of the Greek word "tartarus". Language scholars tell us that the Hebrew word "sheol" and the Greek word "hades" are identical in meaning.

In the Old Testament the word "sheol" is translated "grave" thirty-one times and is translated "Hell" thirty-one times. In four instances the Hebrew word "sheol" is translated "pit."

We give the comment of the Jehovah's Witnesses on this. "But the very fact that the King James Version renders the one Hebrew word sheol three different ways shows that hell, grave, and pit mean one and the same thing. Since hell means mankind's common grave or the pit of burial, it could not at the same time mean a place of fiery torture or a place of two compartments, one of bliss and one of fiery torment."

In several cases it is true that where "sheol" has been translated "hell" it could have been translated "grave." However, in other cases the context and the way the word "sheol" is used in the sentence clearly shows that it refers to a place of punishment and not merely to the grave. Let us look at some of these passages.

Solomon warns against wicked women by saying, "Her house is the way to hell" (Prov. 7:27); and "her guests are in the depths of hell" (Prov. 9:18). When Solomon used the word "sheol," he evidently was speaking of some place other than the grave, for all men both good and bad go to the grave. He was warning immoral men, not that they would die and be placed in the grave, but that they would be punished in Hell for their sins.

Solomon gives us this advice, "Thou shalt beat him (thy son) with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:14). It is very plain that Solomon is here referring

to something besides the grave, because no matter how much a rebellious son may be beaten, he will die and go to the grave, and no amount of beating will bring a person out of the grave, but the wise chastening of a loving father may be a means used of God to keep the wayward son from going to Hell.

The word "hades" is found in the New Testament eleven times. Ten times it is translated "hell" and once "grave" ("O death where is thy sting? O grave (hades) where is thy victory? — I Cor. 15:55). Should the word "hades" have been translated "grave" in every case? We think not. When Jesus warned the city of Capernaum that it would be brought down to hades and that it would suffer more severe punishment than the city of Sodom (Matt. 11:23,24), He was speaking of some place other than the grave, because Apostle Jude said the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha were then suffering the vengeance of eternal fire (Jude 7).

When Jesus said that a certain rich man died and was buried and in hades, he lifted up his eyes being in torment, He evidently was speaking of some place beside the grave, because there are no torments in the grave. People who are in the grave do not lift up their eyes nor do they remember things that happened before they died. Men try to get around this story by telling us that it was a parable, but the Bible does not say it was a parable. Instead of Luke saying as he often did, "He spoke a parable unto them saying . . .," Jesus said, "A certain rich man . . .," showing that He had a certain rich man in mind as He spoke.

The Jehovah's Witnesses say that the Christendom has taught the "God-dishonoring doctrine of a fiery hell." They call those who believe in Hell, "hell-fire screechers." They state in their book LET GOD BE TRUE, "In all places where "hell" is translated from the Greek word Gehenna it means everlasting destruction or extinction." But the truth of the matter is, and, any honorable Greek scholar will tell you, that there is absolutely no evidence in the New Testament that Gehenna ever means annihilation, but rather there are many places where it clearly indicates everlasting misery.

Any person who will read the references where the word

"Gehenna" is used will see that this idea is not true. In the following twelve verses our English word is a translation of the Greek word "Gehenna": Matthew 5:22, 29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33 Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5; and James 3:6. In 2 Peter 2:4 our English word "Hell" is a translation of the Greek word "Tartarus". All other references in the New Testament where the word "Hell" is used are a translation of the Greek word "Hades."

In the different edition of LET GOD BE TRUE they contradict themselves by saying that Gehenna does not refer to Hell, but to the "Valley of Hinnom." Again we quote from the April 1, 1952, printing of LET GOD BE TRUE.

"This valley lay outside of the south and west walls of Jerusalem. It was used as a crematory or incinerator where Israelites dumped the city's offal and garbage as well as the dead bodies of animals and of vile criminals to be destroyed by burning. No live creatures, however, were cast there, as this was against the Jewish law. The fires were kept burning continually and, in order to increase their intensity, the Jews added brimstone or sulphur. Hence Gehenna, or the Valley of Hinnom, became a symbol, not of eternal torment but of the condition of eternal condemnation. Its flames symbolized the complete, eternal destruction to which all the willful enemies of God and his kingdom will go and from which there is no recovery or resurrection."

Let us study some of these references and see if this interpretation is what Jesus meant when He used the word "Gehenna." Jesus said that if we called our brother a fool, we would be in danger of Hell (Gehenna) fire (Matt. 5:22). It is then foolish to say that He was warning men that they would be burned on the rubbish heap outside of the city; for there is no record that one was ever burned in this way.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught that we should fear God rather than men, for man may kill our body, but only God can cast into Hell (Gehenna). If Jesus was referring to the place of burning outside of the city of Jerusalem in Matthew 10:28 and Luke 12:5, He could not be teaching us to fear God, because men would have had the power to cast into the place of burning, but only God can cast into Hell (Gehenna).

To emphasize the terribleness of Hell, Jesus taught that if our eye offends us, we should pluck it out rather than to be cast into Hell; that if our hand or foot offend us, we should cut it off rather than to be cast into Hell (Matt. 18:9, Mark 9:45-48).

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees by calling them serpents and a generation of vipers and asked them how they could escape the damnation of Hell (Matt. 23:33). If Gehenna is nothing more than a place of burning rubbish outside the city, how can it be connected with damnation?

To be consistent in our thinking, if we believe that Heaven is a literal place, we must also believe that Hell is a literal place. The Bible teaches that both Heaven and Hell are literal places. The Bible speaks of the lowest Hell (Deut. 32:22; Psalm 86:13). David spoke of making his bed in Hell (Psalms 139:8; Isaiah 14:15). Ezekiel speaks of being cast down to Hell and of going down into Hell (Ezekiel 31:16, 17).

Repeatedly in the Scriptures Hell is connected with fire or burning. Jesus called it Hell fire (Matthew 5:22; 18:9). He spoke of it as a furnace of fire (Matthew 13:42,50). Five times Hell is called "the lake of fire" (Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 14,15; 21:8).

The story of the rich man in Hell shows that Hell is a place of consciousness (Luke 16:23,24). It is a place of suffering (Jude 7), a place of pain (Psalm 116:3), a place of torment (Luke 16:24,25,28), a place of wrath (Eph. 2:3, Col. 3:6), and a place of eternal damnation (Mark 3:29).

Hell is a place of remembrance. Abraham told the rich man to remember the good things that he enjoyed while living on the earth. The rich man remembered his five brothers that were on the earth. The sinner will remember his past sins without being able to indulge in them. He will remember the many opportunities he had to accept Christ. He will remember the prayers and pleadings of godly parents. He will remember hearing many Gospel sermons. He will remember the wooings and strivings of the Spirit of God. He will remember every time that he rejected Christ.

Hell is not only a place of remembrance, but it is also a place of remorse. The sinner's soul will be filled with the deepest remorse over every sin he committed. In Hell

he will realize the folly of having sold his soul for a mess of pottage. He will be filled with remorse for having spurned the love of God and for having rejected the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hell is not a place of annihilation. To prove that Hell will be destroyed, the Jehovah's Witnesses quote, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" (Rev. 20:14). But they must pervert the clear teaching of many other Scriptures to reach this conclusion. If I have in my hand a stick that is burning with fire, and I cast it into a huge bonfire, they will burn together. The Bible clearly teaches that the fire of Hell is eternal. In Revelation 19:20 we read that anti-christ and the false prophet were both cast alive into the lake burning with fire and brimstone. These two men have sold themselves to serve Satan. They are not destroyed or consumed in the lake of fire but are still burning in Hell a thousand years later when the devil is cast into Hell (Rev. 20:10).

Hell is a place of eternal torment. Jesus said that in the day of judgment the King will say to those who are on his left hand, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:46). Jesus said that Hell is a place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:44,46,48). Two observations are pertinent as we close this section on Hell. First, each one of us had better be very sure that we are not going there, and second, we had better do all that we can to warn others to keep them from going to this place of torment.

THE ONE TRUE RELIGION

Chapter Fourteen

Mr. Charles DeBusk
1743 Conroe
Odessa, Texas 79701

Dear Charles:

In our recent telephone conversation you told me that you had decided to become a Jehovah's Witness because their doctrine had five marks of being the true religion. I have studied the chapter "How to Identify the True Religion" in the book THE TRUTH THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE, and I would like to discuss these five points with you.

This chapter opens in this way, "Logically there must be one true religion. This is in harmony with the fact that the true God is a God, 'not of disorder, but of peace.' (I Corinthians 14:33). Furthermore, Jesus Christ spoke of those who practice such religion as worshiping God 'with spirit and truth,' and truth is never at disagreement with itself (John 4:23,24). But who are these true worshipers today? How can you identify them and know that their worship is indeed the one approved by God?"

Yes, there is but one true religion, and the interesting thing is that this true religion does not bear any of the many titles that men assign to it. The Muslims have a fanatical belief that they have the one true religion. They are so strong in their conviction that they have killed tens of thousands of people who did not agree with them. They are perfectly sincere, but of course, they are sincerely wrong.

Through the centuries the Roman Catholic Church has

maintained that it is the one true church. In the past they have put to death tens of thousands of people who did not agree with them. At the present time they are employing the more subtle method of enticing entire denominations to come into the fold that is under their domination. They think they are right. You and I think that they are wrong.

The Church of Christ people, the Seventh-Day Adventists and many others, as well as the Jehovah's Witnesses, are sincerely convinced that they have the one true religion. If you will examine the New Testament, you will find that the name "The Church of God" is the name that is most used. However, this does not mean that the churches that use the name "The Church of God" are the true religion. An unbiased study of the New Testament reveals that the true church or the true religion is composed of every born-again Christian out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation, regardless of what denomination he may be in or regardless of what label he may wear. In other words, the true church has in it those among the Baptists who have been born of God, the Methodists who have been born of God, the Lutherans who have been born of God, the Roman Catholics who have been born of God, the Jehovah's Witnesses who have been born of God, and those in any of the many other religious groups who have been truly born of God" (John 3:1-18). Being a member of some particular group does not make one a child of God, nor does it put him in the "one true religion." Let us study together the five identifying marks of the one true religion.

1. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another" (John 13:35). No man can improve on what the Lord says, and no man can find any fault in the truth that is stated in this verse. The problem is that most of us miserably fail in living up to this standard. All too often we love those in our own group, and we fail to love those who differ with us on some theological point. Sometimes we love the lovely, but fail to love the unlovely. Most of the Jehovah's Witnesses that I have met have been very nice people. I have not always been as gracious to them as I should have been when dealing with them. Many times I have failed to show the love of Christ to them. Though many Jehovah's Witnesses

may have a genuine love for others in their fellowship, this does not mean that there are not multiplied thousands of Christians in every other denomination who also have this Christ-like love for others. I know many such people. Don't you? What about your parents, and grandparents?

II. Respect for God's Word. The writer of this chapter raises this question, "What can we say in this regard about the many church organizations of Christendom today?" Certainly the true religion must honor the Bible as the Word of God. It is deplorable that many who take the name of Christ deny the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, but I have shown you in chapter two that there are multiplied thousands of Christians in all denominations who honor the Bible as the Word of God.

I would add two requirements to this condition of determining the true religion. (1) It is not enough to respect the Word of God, but our faith must be in accordance with the great doctrines that are taught in the Word of God. This book HEART TO HEART TALKS WITH JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, has been written to prove to you that the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses are not in harmony with the Word of God. (2) It is not enough to be doctrinally sound. If we are to be a part of the true religion, we must experience the life of the risen Christ.

I maintain that the Jehovah's Witnesses do not respect the Word of God as being the only rule of faith and practice. They dishonor the Bible by teaching that it cannot be understood apart from their literature. Repeatedly they twist and pervert the teachings of the Holy Scriptures to fit their own manufactured doctrines. I have appealed to you again and again in this book to study the Bible entirely apart from the Watchtower literature, and you will soon discover how wrong you are. How can you go wrong by doing this?

III. The true religion must sanctify God's name. We are all agreed on this. Wouldn't any one be foolish if he tried to teach otherwise? The name of "Jehovah" is magnified in the Old Testament, and the name of Jesus is magnified in the New Testament. Take a concordance and study the word "name" in the New Testament, and you will see that Jesus' name is honored. "But these are written, that ye

might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:31). Through whose name do we have life? Whose name are we to pray in? (John 14:13,14; 16:23,24).

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Yes, I agree with you that the true religion must sanctify God's name. Read Acts 19:17 and tell me whose name was magnified. We are to do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17). These are just a few of the Scriptures that were overlooked in the Jehovah's Witnesses guided tour through the Scriptures. Use your concordance and you will find the rest of them. Here is the climax: "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). What a glorious day for every child of God, and what an awful day for the Jehovah's Witnesses when every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Jehovah to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:11)!

IV. "True worshipers also proclaim the kingdom of God as man's true hope." Right! how can you have a kingdom without a king? When Jesus Christ reigns as King of Kings and as Lord of Lords, the Bible says, "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plow-shares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:3,4).

If you want to know what will happen when Jesus Christ reigns on the earth, read. Isaiah 11:1-12, 35:1-10; Psalm 72:1-20. I know thousands of Christians who are looking forward to the time when they will reign with Christ in this way. What a delusion to think this started

in 1914. The book of Hebrews clearly teaches that Jesus is now at the Father's right hand as our great High Priest. He will be King when He comes the second time to reign as King. I repeat, how can you have a kingdom without a King?

V. Another requirement of the true religion is that it keep separate from the world and its affairs. There are two sides to every coin. The Bible teaches separation from the world. It also teaches, "Let every soul be subject unto higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For, this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear: honor to whom honor" (Romans 13:1-7). I quote again from page 130 of THE TRUTH THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE, "Who, then are the ones who form the body of true worshipers today? On the basis of the evidence, which is known or available to persons in all parts of the earth, we do not hesitate to say that they are the Christian witnesses of Jehovah. For you to share that conviction you need to get well acquainted with them. The best way is to attend their meetings at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. In this way you can observe for yourself how the organization functions and the way in which those associated with it apply God's Word in their lives."

In the more than thirty-six years that I have been preaching the Gospel, I have met with Christians in dozens of denominations, and I must confess that I have found

more life, joy, love, and power in many of these meeting places than I have found in the Kingdom Halls that I have visited.

If you do not find more life and power in the services of the Odessa Bible Church than you find at the Kingdom Hall, I offer my apologies to you. How can people display the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23) when they deny the Personality and the Deity of the Holy Spirit? How can people be led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14), if He is just a power?

Both of us are perfectly sincere in what we believe, but one of us is sincerely wrong. You think you are right and I am wrong, and I think that I am right and that you are wrong. Dozens of other people think that both of us are wrong. How can we know who is right, and who is wrong? We can determine this by studying the eternal Word of the only true and living God. Isn't it evident that I would be wrong if I were to insist that you must study the Bible in the light of the literature that I publish? Isn't it evident that any group is wrong when the members insist that the Bible must be studied with the help of their literature?

No one ever became a Christian Scientist by studying the Bible, but tens of thousands of perfectly sincere people have become Christian Scientists by studying the Bible with "SCIENCE AND HEALTH, the Key to the Scriptures."

No one ever became a Seventh-Day Adventist by studying the Bible, but a large denomination has been formed out of those who have studied the Bible and the writings of Mrs. Ellen White. By the way, this is how Pastor Russell got his start.

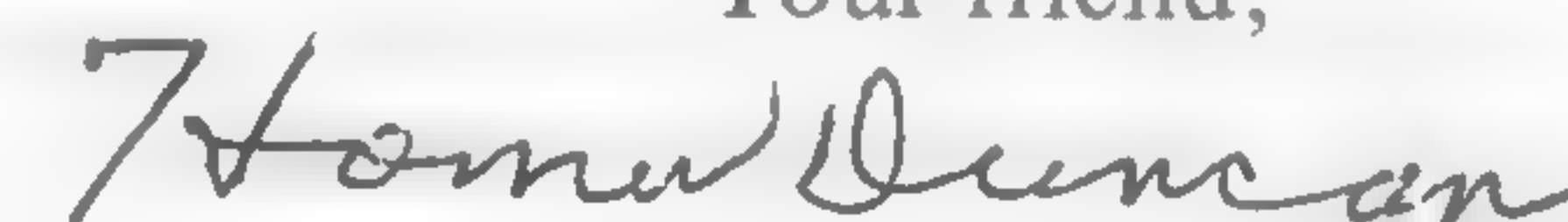
No one ever became a Mormon by studying the Bible, but most of the people in the state of Utah, and thousands of others in many western states became Mormons by studying the Bible and the Book of Mormon,

No one ever became a Jehovah's Witness by studying the Bible. If you know of such a person I would like to meet him, or if you know of any one else who knows such a person, I want to meet him. But, how are Jehovah's Witnesses made? Not by studying the Bible! A book-by-book (Genesis, Exodus, etc.), chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse

study of the Bible would wreck the hodgepodge system that they have built up that is based on proof-texts, that are taken out of context!

Therefore, what is the wise thing for you to do? Study the Bible for yourself. Study the Bible for yourself, and prove me to be wrong, but you know that you cannot do it. What folly to hang on blindly to a Satanic system that denies every cardinal doctrine that is taught in the Bible! Don't do it. Turn to the Lord. Turn to His Word. We are not playing games. The decisions that we make now will count for eternity.

Your friend,



Homer Duncan

SOME ODDS AND ENDS, AND SOME CONCLUSIONS

Chapter Fifteen

In the preface to the 1928 edition of THE HARP OF GOD Judge Rutherford made this statement, "There is no disposition, desire or attempt to induce anyone reading this book to become a member of any organization, sect or denomination." Times have changed since then. On page 130 of THE TRUTH THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE we read, "Who, then, are the ones who form the body of true worshipers today? On the basis of the evidence, which is known or available to persons in all parts of the earth, we do not hesitate to say that they are the Christian witnesses of Jehovah. For you to share that conviction you need to get well acquainted with them. The best way is to attend their meetings at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. In this way you can observe for yourself how the organization functions and the way in which those associated with it apply God's Word in their own lives."

On pages 171 and 172 of THE HARP OF GOD Judge Rutherford wrote, "To prove to them he was a real body of flesh and bones he said to them: 'Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.'" This was not a spirit body, but a body of flesh. The body with which he ascended on high and which he has in heaven is a glorious body which no man can look upon and live except by the miraculous power of Jehovah. Our Lord's body, the one crucified, was removed from the tomb by the power of God. Had it remained there it would have been an obstacle in the way of the faith of his disciples, who were not yet instructed in spiritual things. The Scriptures do not reveal what became of that

body, except that it did not decay or corrupt. We can only surmise that the Lord may have preserved it somewhere to exhibit to the people in the Millennial age."

In the booklet "Heaven and Purgatory" that was copyrighted in 1931 we find these words by J. F. Rutherford, "All recognize the fact that a babe has not sufficient mental capacity to make a contract. No one can even start on the way to heaven until he makes first a contract or covenant to do God's will. That contract must be preceded by some knowledge of the ransom price paid by Jesus Christ. The babe could not grasp such knowledge nor exercise such faith. The Scriptures therefore plainly show that there will be no babies in heaven. If all babes go to heaven, then it would be well if almost all were to die as babes. Nor should the death of a babe bring sorrow. Be assured that babes do not go to heaven. At death the babe goes into the grave, which is properly called "hell." It is there unconscious, silent, and out of existence until the resurrection. At the resurrection the Lord will awaken all the babes out of death and give them an opportunity to grow up to manhood, obey God and live on the earth forever."

I wrote to the Watchtower Society and asked them about the above statement, and here is the reply that I received September 12, 1970:

"You asked in your recent letter regarding a statement in a booklet that we published in 1931. This statement had to do with saying that no babies are in heaven, and none go there. This is a true statement, because the only ones who receive heavenly life are those who have been begotten by God's holy spirit to become anointed members of the body of Christ. These individuals have been chosen to rule with Christ. (Rev. 20:6). Babies are not begotten by God to be associate kings with Jesus Christ in heaven.

Sincerely yours,

Watchtower B. & T. Society
Of New York, Inc.

Now that is most interesting! There is absolutely no Scripture foundation for these statements by "Judge" Rutherford. This is a good example of manufactured

doctrine, and this method taught the later Watchtower writers how to manufacture doctrine as they went along. Of course, such manufacturing was started by "Pastor Russell." I beg your pardon. It was started by Lucifer.

A good fisherman baits his hook with a nice juicy worm. The Watchtower writers know how to write page after page of truth, and they are masters at slipping in the error in such a way as to trap the unwary. For example, much of the book *IS THE BIBLE REALLY THE WORD OF GOD* is written exactly like I would write it. There are no errors worth mentioning in the first 71 pages of this book, but on page 72 the authors make this statement, "Jesus never pretended to be God, but said, 'The Father is greater than I am' John 14:28." Then they continue to page 150 without other major error, and then in an unobtrusive way they refer to the Holy Spirit as the invisible active force of God. On page 176 they deny the Trinity and the doctrine of Hell. Yes, there is lots of good in this book, lots of truth, enough truth to catch the unwary.

I was surprised a short time back when a brother who had been raised in a Bible church said to me, "Why don't you get all of the good that you can from the Jehovah's Witnesses and disregard their false teaching?" That kind of thinking is floating around in many evangelical areas, and is from the pit of Hell. When I hear it, I hear the hiss of the Serpent. There may be some good food in garbage cans up and down the alley, but I do not use that kind of food to feed my family.

In the book *LIFE* that was copyrighted in 1929, Judge Rutherford wrote on page 9, "This book is not propaganda. It is not part of a propaganda scheme. . The reader is not asked or expected to join anything. On page 228 of *LIFE*, Rutherford said, "Jehovah is the greatest moving picture producer," and then he takes the book of Job and uses it as an analogy depicting the experiences of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The writers of *THEN IS FINISHED THE MYSTERY OF GOD* that was published in 1969 use this same method of "Bible" study and make everything in the book of the Revelation apply to the Jehovah's Witnesses and to events that are related to them. Amazing!

On page 324 of *YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH*

we read, "There was a short period of sorrow and captivity before the heavenly Michael, standing up in his kingdom power, delivers Jehovah's sanctuary class." Chapter and verse for this one, please.

BABYLON THE GREAT HAS FALLEN was published in 1963. On page 672 of this book we read, "The one who is holy as a slave of God should continue being made holy. Otherwise, they will lose all the credit that they built up by their previous righteousness and holiness." These two sentences reveal a complete lack of understanding of salvation by grace. Where can you find in the Bible that any one "builds up credit" by his own righteousness? The Bible teaches, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). We are made the righteousness of God in Christ (I Corinthians 1:30).

On page 249 of *THEN IS FINISHED THE MYSTERY OF GOD* we read, "The features as noted about this "strong angel" combine to indicate that he represents or stands for the glorified Lord Jesus Christ, who before his human birth was the archangel Michael. This is a blasphemous assertion without any Scriptural foundation. Dozens of other contradictory assertions could be quoted from the Watchtower books.

SOME CONCLUSIONS THAT I HAVE REACHED

I have been witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses for 36 years, and I have written this book for the sole purpose of presenting the truth of God in such a way that the Spirit of God may be able to use this book to snatch some of them as brands from the burning. Though I believe that the *WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY* is a Satanic agency, I do not have animosity in my heart for any individual Jehovah's Witness. I have reached the following ten conclusions:

(1) I believe that Jehovah's Witnesses are good, sincere people who have been deceived by Satan. I use the word "good" in the sense that they are moral, upright people. The Bible says, "There is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12). This "none" takes in all of us.

(2) Most of these people have at one time been protestant church members. Some of them are born-again Christians; others are only nominal Christians. They recognized the great deficiencies of the churches that they attended. They were not rooted and grounded in the Word of God. In liberal churches they heard nothing but the social gospel, and in many evangelical churches they heard a watered down "easy believism." They were not fed on "the sincere milk of the Word." They could not have been ensnared by the Jehovah's Witnesses if they had been taught the great truths of the Word of God. They were dissatisfied with the cold formalism that they found in their churches. I know that these statements are true from having talked with many Jehovah's Witnesses.

(3) The Jehovah's Witnesses have a zeal in witnessing that very few Christians have. Even though their motivation is wrong (that of receiving merit, and the hope of escaping Armageddon), they are more zealous in teaching their doctrines than most Christians are in telling others of the Savior.

(4) As I have made this study, for the first time in all of my years of association with the Jehovah's Witnesses, I have discovered their basic error. This error is that the Bible cannot be understood apart from the literature that is published by the Watchtower Society. This is the same error of the Roman Catholic Church which puts the authority of the church above the authority of the Word of God.

(5) Bible study is of the utmost importance for every believer, but the Watchtower Society uses the wrong method of Bible study. Instead of studying the Book to see what it says, they establish their own doctrines, and then search the Scriptures to find proof-text to verify their doctrines.

(6) Grace is a principle that is contrary to the thinking of the natural man, and the Jehovah's Witnesses do not know "the grace of God in truth" (Colossians 1:6), or they would not be Jehovah's Witnesses. (Let us send you a free copy of our booklet THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD.)

(7) The Bible teaches that a gigantic conflict rages

through out the universe for the souls and for the lives of men (Ephesians 6:10-20). The world-wide sweep of the Watchtower Society demonstrates the deceptive power of Satan, and it demonstrates that the ones who are swept into this Satanic system have not been taught in their churches about the Satanic conflict, and they have not learned how to put on the whole armor of God, so as to be able to stand against the strategy of Satan.

(8) These people who have been deceived are worthy of our prayers. We would not think of cursing a blind man because he cannot see; instead we would seek to guide and help him. These people have been blinded by Satan. They need our love, our prayers, and our witness. We need to understand their doctrines, so that we, depending on the Spirit of God, can lead them into the truth of God.

(9) I have never met any of the leaders in the Watchtower Society. Some of them may be sincere, but deceived people, but in most cases I am convinced that they are willful deceivers. It does not seem possible to me that any one could have searched the Scriptures as carefully as they have without knowing the truth. They know the truth, but they fail to teach it. How great is their condemnation! The writers of the Watchtower literature have received and have read many books such as this one that I am now writing, but instead of being honest and admitting that they have been wrong, they resort to any subterfuge in order to maintain their false theological position. The Apostle John said, "Many deceivers are entered into the world" (2 John 7). The Apostle Paul said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:17,18). I challenge you to study the doctrines taught by the Jehovah's Witnesses and compare them with the teaching of the Apostle Paul in the book of Romans. The Apostle Paul also said, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers

also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). One of the signs that we are living in the last days before the return of the Lord is the many false teachers of all kinds. Jesus said, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:11). How can you know who are the false prophets? "To the law and to the testimony if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

The Bible repeatedly warns the believer to be on the alert for false prophets. "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits" (Isaiah 30:9, 10). The Jehovah's Witnesses do not want to hear the Truth of God about Hell, and about Judgment, and about the wrath of God. Where do you find teaching on these subjects in their books? They explain these truths away. They deceive you by prophesying deceits and smooth things. Paul wrote to Timothy that in the last days, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Timothy 3:13).

(10) The writers of the Watchtower literature are masters of deception. They have the best patchwork men in the business. They are masters at taking a drop of distilled nonsense and diffusing it into an ocean of verbosity. Born-again Christians that are not established in the Word of God are tossed to and fro by their subtleties. This has been demonstrated in their teaching concerning the Deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, concerning the soul of man and the doctrine of Hell. What a hodge-podge they have made of the glorious truth of the Lord's return! No intelligent person could possibly believe what they teach unless they are first brainwashed into believing that the Bible cannot be understood apart from the help of the Watchtower literature.

Dear Friend, I have written to you with a heart of compassion and of concern. Though it is my prayer that the Spirit of God will be pleased to use this book to turn thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses in all parts of the world from their false system of bondage to the light of the

Glorious Gospel of Christ, I have written this book with one young couple especially in mind. I have known the husband in this family since he was a boy. I know his parents and his grandparents. They are all fine people. They are the salt of the earth. I have just recently met the wife of this man. She impressed me as being a fine, sweet woman. She was raised as a Jehovah's Witness, and certainly cannot be censored for this. I have nothing in my heart but the love of Christ for both of them. Why should it be otherwise?

I want to close this book with a chapter that was not written especially for the Jehovah's Witnesses. The next and last chapter of this book is a re-print of a small pamphlet that I have written and that is published by the MISSIONARY CRUSADER. This next chapter gives the essence of Christianity. Read it prayerfully.

LIFE

Chapter Sixteen

The Lord Jesus Christ is the essence of Christianity. He is the center of the circumference; the foundation and the capstone; the beginning and the end. There are many elements in the Christian life, but the one essential element is life. I am not speaking about a way of life, or a way of living, but in knowing and experiencing the life of the risen Son of God (Colossians 3:4, I John 5:11).

Just as our physical life begins with our physical birth, the Christian life begins with the new birth. The Bible calls this regeneration (Titus 3:5, John 3:1-18). If a person is alive, there will be some evidence of life. Growth activity and fruitfulness are evidences of life. The absence of life is death. If a professing Christian does not have some evidence of life, it means that he is dead in trespasses and sins.

We receive life by receiving Christ. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power (the legal right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12,13).

But you may ask, "How do I receive Christ?" By inviting Him to come into your heart. Jesus said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). Jesus knocks and wants to come in. Your part is to open the door and invite Him in. He has said that if you will do this, He will come in. You will be saved when you invite the living

Christ, the Son of God, to come into your heart. Have you ever done this? If you say, "I do not know," then the wise thing is to do this right now, for it is utterly impossible for anyone to be a Christian without having Christ. That sounds reasonable, doesn't it? We may do all sorts of things, obey ordinances, observe rules, try to live in a certain way, stop all of our bad habits, join churches or other religious societies, but none of these things, nor all of them together, will give us life.

We may seek to follow the example of Christ, we may study the Bible every day, we may pray for hours, we may be actively engaged in Christian services, but all of this will not give us life. Life is in Christ (John 1:4, I John 5:11, Colossians 3:4). Therefore, if you do not have Him, you do not have life. If you do not have Him, bow your head and heart, right where you are, and invite Him to come in, for He is as good and as great as His Word. Do not depend on your feelings. He will begin to manifest Himself to you as you begin to grow in grace by feeding on His Word -- the Bible.

Now that you have invited Christ to come into your heart, what does He want to do there? There are multiplied thousands of Christians who know that Christ is in their heart, but very few of them know what He wants to do there. The answer is simple: He wants to live there. He wants to live His life in and through you. This is the Christian life. This is the only way that any of us can live the Christian life.

The Apostle Paul prayed for the saints at Ephesus, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith" (Ephesians 3:17). That these people were already Christians is evidenced by the fact that Paul called them saints (Ephesians 1:1). They could not be Christians without having Christ in their heart. Why then did Paul pray that Christ might dwell in their hearts? The secret is in the word "dwell". The Amplified New Testament translates it in this way: "May Christ through your faith (actually) dwell -- settle down, abide, make His permanent home -- in your hearts!"

Too many of us who have received Christ as our Saviour have Him shut up in the guest room. We have heard of the terrors of Hell, and we do not wish to go there. We have

heard of the glories of Heaven, and we do want to go there, so we come to Christ to get our sins forgiven, and to have our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. We join the church, we are baptized, and we try to live right, and we think that this is the Christian life, but this is ten thousand miles from life in Christ as it is revealed in the Bible.

Jesus Christ not only wants to be our Saviour, He also wants to be our Lord. He is Lord of all (Acts 10:36). He rebukes us as He did the disciples by saying, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). If Jesus Christ is our Lord, He will control every area of our life. He will prove Himself sufficient for every circumstance, He will demonstrate His power in every crisis.

How can we get Him to do this? The answer is simple. Let Him. Surrender every area of our lives completely to Him, and then get out of His way so as not to hinder His activity. Christ can not help us until we are brought to the end of our own resources. If you are to rescue a drowning man, you will either have to knock him out or wait until he is utterly exhausted before you can help him, if you do not do this, he will likely pull you under as he goes down.

Faith is expressed in praise. Praise the Lord for His sufficiency in every situation. Praise Him for the solution to every problem that you face. Undertake nothing on your own initiative. Be led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14), and do only the things that He directs you to do.

We have been talking about how to get the Christian life, and about how the Bible teaches us how to live that life. These truths are stated many ways in the Bible. We are justified by faith, and we are to live by faith. This is the only way we can be justified, and this is the only way we can live the Christian life. We are saved by an act of faith; we are to live in an attitude of faith.

What about Christian service? If our service is to please God, it, too, must be by faith, for the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). Christian service can be summed up in the word "availability." This truth is best illustrated by the human

body. I do not expect my arms to be waving all of the time, nor do I expect my feet to be jumping all of the time. If they do, I will soon be exhausted. That is why many Christians suffer from nervous exhaustion. They are like a squirrel in a cage, and in their effort to serve God, they burn out their bearings. God does not want us to do anything for Him. He wants to do the work through us! "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12, 13). The Apostle Paul said, "Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working which worketh in me mightily" (Colossians 1:29).

As long as the members of my body are controlled by my head, I get along wonderfully well, but when any member ceases to function as it should, I become sick. Today the Church of Jesus Christ is sick because the members are not controlled by Christ (Colossians 2:18,19). I do not expect my hand to be waving all of the time, but I do expect it to obey me when I send a message from my brain telling it to pick up a pencil or a fork. We dishonor the Lord when we race about in fleshly activity. He wants us to be controlled by Him in the same way that the members of our body are controlled by our head. When we learn to serve Him in this way, we enter into the rest that is promised by the Spirit of God (Hebrews 4:9, 11).

This truth is the essence of the Christian life as it is revealed by the Spirit of God in the Word of God. This is God's plan and purpose for our lives. This is the way in which He wants us to live and walk. The decision is ours. God never coerces, because to do so would violate the freedom of our will.

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

You can be saved by inviting the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your heart in simple child-like faith (John 1:12; Revelation 3:20). If you have been saved as a result of reading this book or if you have questions in your

mind, we would like to hear from you. Your letters will be confidential, and they will receive my personal attention.

Your friend,

Homer Duncan

Homer Duncan

MISSIONARY CRUSADER

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